UKRAINIAN NEWS
УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВІСТІ

Edmonton February 12–265, 1997 Vol. LXX №3 Price $1.50

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Calgary Sun revives disproved Division charges

Culminates week of media frenzy started by "60 Minutes"

By Marco Levytsky

A Calgary newspaper has once again revived charges — that have been twice been proven false by Canadian investigators — against a Ukrainian veteran's group and spread the disinformation across the country by newswire.

In the Feb. 9 article by reporter Bill Kaufmann, The Calgary Sun quoted Sol Littman, Canadian director of the Simon Weisenthal Centre, as saying that Alberta is "home to a significant contingent of suspected war criminals".

Littman, who was admonished for raising unsubstantiated charges by the Deschenes Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals in its 1986 report, indentified these "war criminals" as veterans of the 14th Waffen SS Grenadier Division 'Galizien', who are known by their formal name — the Brotherhood of Veterans of the First Division of the National Army of Ukraine.

"They settled mostly in the Prairie provinces, particularly in Alberta," said Littman, adding that 'they had a notorious reputation and were involved in many massacres on the Eastern Front."

The story was picked up by other Sun papers in Canada and also put on the Canadian Press wire, culminating a week of media frenzy over the war crimes issue which began with a CBS "60 Minutes" episode.

The veterans of the Division — the vast majority of whom had settled in southern Ontario — had been investigated by British and Canadian authorities in 1950 — before they were allowed to emigrate to Canada — and again in 1986 by the Deschenes Commission.

In both cases they were cleared of any charges of war crimes.

"Charges of war crimes against members of the Galicia Division have never been substantiated, either in 1950 when they were first preferred, or in 1984 when they were renewed, or before this Commission," stated its report.

The Division was a military unit organized to fight the Soviet Red Army in the hope that it could form the nucleus of a national Ukrainian army which could fight for independence in case both Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia fell apart following World War II — as both the German and Russian Empires collapsed after World War I.

Its major action was the Battle of Brody in Western Ukraine in the summer of 1944, when only 3,000 members of an original force of 14,000 returned following their encounter with the Soviet Red Army.

The Division subsequently reorganized and surrendered en masse to Western Allies in Rimini, Italy in May, 1945.

"While in Italy, these men were screened by Soviet and British authorities and neither then, nor subsequently has any evidence been brought to light which would suggest that any of them fought against the Western Allies or engaged in crimes against humanity. There behaviour since they came to this country has been good and they have never indicated in any way that they are infected with any trace of Nazi ideology," stated the Deschenes Commission report.

Speaking with The Sun, Borys Sydoruk, Calgary representative of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association termed Littman's accusations "ridiculous hysteria".

"It's all just a vicious circle and a very selective campaign of hyste-

Cont. on P. 3

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Cheremosh hosts February Frolic

The Ukrainian Cheremosh Society hosted its third Annual February Frolic Feb.1 at St. Basil's Cultural Centre in Edmonton. A lively crowd came out to enjoy the evening's festivities of dining, dancing, entertainment and the group's First Silent Auction. Pictured above: Cheremosh performs its Hopak. For more, see Page 9 of this issue.

Скандал довкола газетної публікації може коштувати прем'єрові посади

Андрій Шевченко

(КБУВ)—«Ми і Президент особисто точно знаємо, хто фінансово підтримує цю газету», — з таким неприхованим попередженням виступив глава Адміністрації Президента Евген Кушнарьов після появи 5 лютого в газеті «Кієвскеє Вєдомості» статті журналіста Сергія Рахманіна «Чи розжене Президент парламент?» У матеріялі розглядається вірогідність розпуску Верховної Ради у разі несхвалення бюджету, і як протидія все частішим «диктаторським» замашкам Леоніда Кучми називається можливість союзу між спікером парляменту Олександром Морозом, нинішнім прем'єром Павлом Лазаренком та колишнім — Евгеном Марчуком.

На запитання кореспондента «УВ» пан Кушнарьов не відповів, кого ж він має на увазі, говорячи про фінансування найпопулярнішої київської газети. Хоча ні для кого не є таємницею зв'язок принаймні одного зі співзасновників «Вєдомостей» — дніпропетровського «Приватбанку» — з прем'єр міністром, дніпропетровцем Павлом Лазаренком.

На думку Кушнарьова, політичні публікації у «Кієвскіх Вєдомостях» стратегічно пов'язані між собою. Спостерігачі одразу ж пригадали скандальний серіял у цій же газеті про Дмитра Табачника, тодішнього главу Адміністрації Президента, та недавню різку статтю про голову Нацбанку Віктора Ющенка. Не секрет, що стосунки Лазаренка з Табачником були далеко не найпріязніші, а перед затвердженням у парляменті кандидатури Ющенка, внесеної Президентом, не втихали розмови про протидію йому з боку прем'єра.

До цього розходження між прем'єром і Президентом всіляко затушовувалися.

Багато хто вважає відставку справою часу. Показовою в цьому пляні є критика уряду з боку Президента за недостатню роботу над проєктом Державного бюджету 1997 року та пакетом нових податкових законів.

Цікаво, що П. Лазаренко останні тижні провів у відпустці — у Карлових Варах (Словаччина). Поінформовані джерела стверджують, що до нього літав В. Горбулін, секретар Ради з національної безпеки і одна з найдовіреніших осіб у президентській команді. А цих двох людей важкувато уявити разом на відпочинку.

Цікаво, що вперше можновладці зацікавилися закулісною стороною засобів масової інформації. Хоча преса давно вже стала вагомим фактором коньюнктурного і цілеспрямованого формування політичного клімату в Україні. А за публікаціями у деяких з них безпомилково прочитуються завтрашні політичні віяння.

Автор тієї статті С. Рахманін заявив: «Владні розборки існують не тому, що про них пишуть журналісти, а навпаки. Журналісти пишуть про владні розборки, бо...»

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Бути чи не бути смертній карі?

Юрій Дорошенко

(КБУВ)—Сьогодні Україну притиснуто до міжнародної стіни болючим питанням «страчувати чи не страчувати». Днями міністр юстиції Сергій Головатий укотре розповів журналістам, що його непокоїть в погрозі нашій державі з боку Парляментської Асамблеї Ради Европи.

Документ іменується «Резолюція 1112 (1997) щодо виконання зобов'язання України накласти мораторій на виконання смертних вироків. Виявляється, Україна не надала Асамблеї інформації стосовно кількости смертних вироків за друге півріччя минулого року, а в першому півріччі встигла відправити на тамтой світ аж 89 злочинців. ПАРЕ не лише висловила незадоволення такою поведінкою України, але й пригрозила, що у разі «продовження такої практики після прийняття цієї резолюції вона на своїй наступній сесії відмовить українській делегації у визнанні її повноважень».

За словами С. Головатого, наведене число вироків перевищує статистику тих років, коли наша держава не мала щастя бути в «дружніх обіймах» Европи. Якщо ж Україну справді позбавлять акредитації у всеевропейському парляменті (куди ми з такими труднощами запихувалися), то це буде першим випадком після того, як подібні заходи було вжито до Греції, коли там до влади прийшли «чорні полковники». Строк, який нам дали на відмову від виконання смертних вироків (а це три роки) спливає, підштовхуючи нас активніше взятися за реформування законодавства. Міністр юстиції повідомив про те, що вже зроблено пропозиції, наприклад, зміни ст. 25 Карного кодексу на довічне ув'язнення як альтернативу смертної кари.

На закид Асамблеї про те, що Україна тримає в секреті інформацію про виконання вироків, пан Головатий зазначив: «Ця інформація, відповідно до чинного законодавства, належить до державних секретів. Міністерство юстиції також подало пропозиції парляменту стосовно вилучення цього пункту з переліку державних секретів України».

Президент прийняв відставку керівника Львівщини М. Гориня

(КБУВ)—Приводом для перетурбацій на вершині владного олімпу Львівщини стали вимоги місцевих структур більшости політичних партій до сесії обласної ради щодо відставки голови обласної державної адміністрації та облради (тут ще не відбулося розмежування двох керівних посад виконавчої та представницької влади) Миколи Гориня, якого звинуватили в скрутному становищі краю у зв'язку з «невмілими діями виконавчої влади».

М. Горинь зареагував на претензії своєрідно: він оприлюднив на сесії обласної ради своє подання до Президента з проханням увільнити його з посади керівника облдержадміністрації. Разом з тим, М. Горинь хоче пов'язати свою подальшу діяльність з керуванням виключно обласною радою. Рішення досить своєрідне, адже реальні важелі впливу належать президентським ставлениками на чолі адміністрацій, а голови рад поступово перетворюються на формальних статистів, до того ж, цілком залежних від настроїв депутатів: у будь-який момент їх можуть змінювати за рішенням сесій, обираючи на ці посади інших осіб з числа депутатів.

Президент блискавично відреагував на подання М. Гориня: його прохання відразу ж було задоволено, а новим головою облдержадміністрації призначено Михайла Гладія — вихідця зі львівщини, завідуючого аграрним відділом Кабінету міністрів.

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У Києві діють іноземні розвідки

(Радіо Люкс)—Заступник начальника Управління СБУ по Києву та Київській області Володимир Воробйов вважає, що питання охорони державної таємниці стоїть гостро, оскільки у столиці «розгорнули бурхливу діяльність» іно-земні розвідки.

Під час наради в Київдержадміністрації, присвяченій ходу виконання Закону України «Про державну таємницю», він повідомив, що Київ став базою координації дій резидентури Німеччини на теренах СНД.

Пан Воробйов наголосив, що роботу СБУ із захисту державних секретів ускладнюють «несвідомі громадяни», які з власної ініціятиви ідуть на контакти з іноземними представництвами, розголошуючи при цьому секретну технічну інформацію.

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(Радіо Люкс)—По закінченні судового процесу в Німеччині, пов'язаного зі «справою про 30 мільйонів», Леонід Кравчук подасть позов на засоби масової інформації та юридичних осіб в Україні, котрі «завдали йому моральної шкоди і додали державі негативного політичного іміджу».

Екс–президент України повідомив, що чекає на остаточне рішення Мюнхенського земельного суду. Він додав, що серед згаданих видань є, зокрема, газети «Тораріш» і «Комуніст».

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Розпочались переговори України з державами «Великої сімки»

(Укрінформ)—У Вашингтоні, 10 лютого 1997 року розпочалися триденні переговори офіційної делегації України з державами «Великої сімки» щодо розв'язання проблеми закриття ЧАЕС. На переговорах з доповіддю «Енергетична стратегія України» виступив голова урядової делегації України міністр охорони навколишнього природного середовища та ядерної безпеки України Юрій Костенко.

На переговорах розглядатимуться питання щодо заходів вирішення проблеми «Саркофагу». Країни «Великої сімки» виявили готовність прийняти український варіянт вирішення цієї проблеми, який передбачає видалення залишків паливних мас із об'єкту «Укриття». Учасники переговорів обговорюватимуть заходи по виведенню з експлуатації ЧАЕС, а також залучення інвестицій в енергетичну галузь України. Зокрема, намічається узгодити позиції України та «Великої сімки» щодо надання кредиту на завершення побудови нових потужностей на Хмельницькій (блок 4) та Рівненській (блок 2) АЕС. Буде проаналізовано плян соціяльної адаптації персоналу ЧАЕС та жителів Славутича. Пропозиції українського уряду з цього питання буде представлено.

Government seeks to abolish death penalty

CE threatens Ukraine and Russia with sanctions

(OMRI/RFE/RL/Ukrinform)— Justice Minister Serhiy Holovaty said on Jan. 31 that the government has asked the parliament to abolish the death penalty, international agencies reported.

Holovaty said Ukraine should stick to its pledge to impose a moratorium on capital punishment, which it made when joining the Council of Europe in November, 1995.

Holovaty noted that the prevailing attitude to the death penalty in Ukraine continues to reflect the totalitarian-style mentality of many politicians and public figures, but added that Ukraine will have to adjust its legal behavior to CE standards, which are a must for all member-nations, Ukraine included.

Holovaty said the Verkhovna Rada will have to address this before April of 1997, when the CE's Parliamentary Assembly convenes to discuss Ukraine's stand on the death penalty.

Three days earlier he submitted a draft law to parliament calling for a ban on capital punishment in peacetime and its replacement with life imprisonment.

Meanwhile, Borys Olijnyk, vice president of the CE's Parliamentary Assembly and head of the Ukrainian official delegation to it, said "it is impossible to fully abolish capital punishment in Ukraine at present".

The call for a moratorium was prompted by the resolution, adopted Jan. 29 by a large majority of the CE Assembly, threatening to suspend the credentials of the Ukrainian and Russian delegations if their countries continued executions.

In unusually strong language, the Assembly took Russia and Ukraine to task for failing to fulfill their pledges to end death penalty executions, as they had promised to do when they became Council members.

It warned both countries that if they persisted in executions, they risked the suspension of their parliamentary delegations early next year.

The Assembly also set up a special new committee to continue monitoring the pledges made by other Eastern member states, and gave it the power to sanction members that persist in failing to honor their commitments.

Among the reasons for the condemnation was a feeling that the governments of Russia and Ukraine had apparently deliberately lied to the Council in giving the impression they had ceased executions.

Hungarian member Zsolt Nemeth, who drafted the resolutions condemning the two countries, told an RFE/RL correspondent that he and other members of the Assembly's Legal Affair Committee were "astounded" to learn of numerous recent executions in both countries when they participated in a Council-sponsored seminar on the subject in Kyiv three months ago.

Holovaty said that in the first half of 1996, Ukraine, had executed 89 people. But Renate Wohlwend of Liechtenstein, a co-drafter of the resolution said the true figure was probably "in the hundreds."

Ukrainian authorities registered 4,896 premeditated murders in 1996, most of which were in the economically developed regions of Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk, Odesa, Crimea, and Kyiv.

The number of contract killings grew from eight in 1993 to 210 in 1995, while 400 per 100,000 of the Ukrainian population received prison sentences last year.

CFRN criticized for broadcast delay

Cont. from P. 1

ria," he said.

"Littman has been guilty of gross exaggerations," added Sydoruk citing the Deschenes Commission report.

The sudden interest in war criminals began with the controversy surrounding Edmonton television station CFRN's delay of a "60 Minutes" episode dealing with alleged war criminals in Canada.

In the episode "60 Minutes" suggested that Canada was a haven for World War II war criminals and the government was doing nothing about it. It charged that most of these "war criminals" were "Lithuanians, Latvians and Ukrainians".

CFRN, which had issued an apology following its broadcast of "60 Minutes" the "Ugly Face of Freedom" episode in the Fall of 1994 in which Ukrainians were described as being "genetically anti-Semitic" and was subsequently denounced by many who had appeared in it, including the Chief Rabbi of Kyiv, had been asked by the Alberta Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress to delay broadcast until members of the Ukrainian community had a chance to screen it in order to ensure there were no fabrications of the sort that were present throughout "The Ugly face of Freedom."

As CFRN received the feed from CBS only one hour before broadcast time, Feb. 2, the station decided to delay transmission.

This prompted charges of "censorship" from The Edmonton Journal's television columnist Richard Helm who admonished the station for "second-guessing the estimable fact checkers at the CBS News Division".

The episode, entitle "Canada's Dark Secret" was subsequently broadcast on Feb. 8.

Regarding the broadcast, UCC Alberta issued a statement saying the the Ukrainian Canadian Community "has repeatedly supported the principle that any war criminals found in Canada should be brought to justice in Canada under Canadian Criminal Law."

It also noted that the Deschenes Commission had investigated the charges in the 1980's and found that the claims were grossly exaggerated.

"As much as we would be dismayed to think that any war criminals might escape justice, we do not support attempts to pollute this issue with unbalanced coverage and completely unproven and exaggerates allegations that maliciously attempt to portray our country as a haven for war criminals," said the UCC statement.

"The UCC took the position of defending the entire Canadian community, rather than the Ukrainian community, because it was a slap in the face to Canada," explained Bohdan Maciura, executive director of the Alberta UCC.

Canada supports notarial reform in Ukraine

Don Boudria, Minister for International Cooperation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie, announced on Feb. 6 that Canada will support notarial reform in Ukraine as part of a legislative review designed to ensure the country's transition to a market economy.

"Canadian expertise will strengthen the notarial profession in Ukraine and boost confidence among investors," Boudria said. "The success of this reform will have a significant positive impact on private-sector development."

The Government of the Ukraine has identified notarial reform as a priority for the successful transition to a market economy. An initiative of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will enable the Chambre des notaires du Québec to help the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine to review the role of notaries as prescribed by law, and to establish an association qualified to regulate this profession. The Chambre des notaires du Québec will also assist in developing model notarial deeds, organizing an office in Kyiv to compensate victims of malpractice,and training women notaries to encourage them to open private practices.

Funding for this $1.2 million initiative was provided for in the March 1996 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

Next issue to be delayed

Regular schedule to resume after that

The next issue of Ukrainian News will come out five days later than the normal schedule due to the Alberta election. The issue following will come out nine days later on March 12 and the regular schedule will be resumed.

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Ситуація в економіці вимагає надзвичайних рішень

(Укрінформ)—Підсумки роботи основних галузей економіки України у січні поточного року всебічно проаналізовано 8 лютого на засіданні Кабінету Міністрів, яке провів перший віце–прем'єр–міністр України Василь Дурдинець.

За інформацією міністра статистики Олександра Осауленка, обсяги виробництва на промислових підприємствах у порівнянні з січнем 1996 року зменшилися на 8,1 відсотка. Найбільше скоротилося виробництво в Автономній Республіці Крим (34,4 відсотка), Івано–Франківській (37,6 відсотка), Кіровоградській (20,5 відсотка), Одеській (37,9 відсотка), Тернопільській (24 відсотки) областях.

Водночас зросло виробництво окремих видів продукції: електроенергії, металорізальних верстатів, екскаваторів, мінеральних добрив, магнітофонів, тощо. На 10,4 відсотка скоротився обсяг роздрібного товарообігу.

На засіданні зазначалося, що головною проблемою вітчизняного товаровиробника залишається низький рівень реалізації продукції через високу її собівартість, низьку якість та неконкурентоспроможність на внутрішньому і зовнішньому ринках. При цьому практично не проводиться уцінення готової продукції, аби відшкодувати хоча б частину понесених витрат і компенсації обігових коштів. За умов скорочення обсягів виробництва, зупинки багатьох підприємств, практично відсутні факти оголошення банкрутств, звільнення керівників, які неспроможні налагодити ефективну роботу, забезпечити своєчасну виплату заробітної плати.

Аналізуючи стан надходжень до бюджету, голова Державної податкової адміністрації Микола Азаров підкреслив: через новорічні та інші свята майже 70 відсотків промислових підприємств не працювали першу половину січня, що значно скоротило надходження до бюджету. За січень вони склали майже 1,8 мільярда гривень.

Ряд гострих критичних зауважень було висловлено на адресу керівників міністерств статистики, фінансів, економіки, транспорту, вугільної промисловості, сільського господарства та продовольства, які, за словами Василя Дурдинця, займають пасивну позицію, не завжди володіють повною інформацією про становище у відповідних галузях і, отже, не забезпечують належного впливу на динаміку подій. Керівникам цих міністерств доручено невідкладно розглянути ситуацію в галузях на розширених колегіях, зосередивши особливу увагу на шляхах нарощення виробництва, створення системи гарантованого поповнення доходної частини бюджету, погашення боргів з соціяльних виплат і взаємозаборгованості підприємств. Підкреслено також необхідність підвищення платоспроможного попиту в економіці, вибіркової фінансової підтримки конкурентоздатного виробника, закриття підприємств, що працюють «на склад».

Керівником НБУ знову призначено Ющенка

(КБУВ)—5 лютого парлямент України таємним голосуванням підтримав внесену Президентом кандидатуру Віктора Ющенка на посаду голови Правління Національного банку. Претендент витримав випробування на довір'я з міцним запасом голосів.

Перепризначення В. Ющенка на цю важливу посаду розвіяли побоювання про небажані зміни орієнтирів економічної політики внаслідок загостреної кулуарної політичної боротьби. Переміг здоровий глузд. В особі В. Ющенка, авторитетного в міжнародних колах фахівця банківської справи, Україна має одного з перших і досі небагатьох справді національних кадрів нової хвилі, які можуть похвалитися певними здобутками.

Розпочато розгляд справи Кудюкіна

(Радіо Люкс)—28 січня у Миколаївському обласному суді розпочалося слухання кримінальної справи колишнього президента судноплавного концерну «Бласко ЧМП» Павла Кудюкіна, якому інкримінується розкрадання державної власности в особливо великих розмірах, порушення правил валютних операцій, зловживання службовим становищем, тощо.

Всього проти нього висунуто звинувачення за шістьма статтями Кримінального кодексу.

З урахуванням того, що п'ять адвокатів Кудюкіна до суду не з'явилися, а підсудного не ознайомлено з матеріялами справи, суддя Надія Сависько ухвалила рішення про перенесення розгляду справи на два тижні.

Хід земельної реформи

Тетяна Весна

(ДІНАУ–Укрінформ)—«Хід земельної реформи, процесу реструктуризації сільсько–господарських підприємств» — тема конференції, яку провели 6 лютого у Києві Міністерство сільського господарства та продовольства України разом з проєктом TACIS.

Відзначалося, що незважаючи на ряд прикладів ефективної і успішної реструктуризації і наявності сильних фермерських господарств, процес земельної реформи і реструктуризації сільсько–господарських підприємств в Україні проходить формально.

Невизначеність прав і обов'язків власників, відсутність ефективного ринку землі не дозволяють побудувати систему корпоративного управління, затримуючи процес реструктуризації. Підкреслювалось, що закони і рішення, які приймаються у Києві, не завжди ефективні на місцях.

Учасники конференції обговорили заходи щодо прискорення та підвищення ефективності перетворень в аграрному секторі. Представники міжнародних проєктів наголошували, що важливим є створення законодавчої бази для роз'яснення прав власності і зняття обмежень щодо купівлі–продажу та оренди землі.

Латвійські українці вшановують пам'ять поета

(ДІНАУ–Укрінформ)—Донедавна чимало українських майстрів красного письменства були відомі лише окремим знавцям літератури. Історія повертає несправедливо забуті імена. Євген Маланюк — один із них: 100–річчя від дня народження видатного поета вшанували українці Латвії на літературному вечорі, організованому посольством України та культурно–просвітницьким товариством «Дніпро».

У затишному клюбі–кав'ярні зібралися шанувальники таланту майстра слова. Протягом кількох годин лунали поезії Євгена Маланюка та українські пісні. На вечорі виконувалися й пісні на слова поета, написані місцевим художником Олесем Царуком. А напередодні в «Українській сторінці» латвійської газети «Ригас Балсс» вміщено було матеріяли до ювілею поета. Розповіла про його творчість й інформаційно–аналітична програма «Україна» на хвилях латвійського радіо.

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Power struggles continue in Crimea

Kuchma appoints dismissed speaker as his representative

(OMRI/JF Monitor/Infobank)—President Leonid Kuchma appointed former Crimean Parliament Speaker Vasyl Kyselyov presidential representative in Crimea

Kyselyov, elected speaker last October, was dismissed by 58 votes in the peninsula's 96-member Crimean parliament on Feb. 6.

The pro-Russian deputies accused him of "failing to fulfill his professional duties."

After the vote, Kyselyov warned that the "situation in Crimea is getting to the point where the Ukrainian parliament will impose order here."

He also told journalists that he was dismissed for being "too zealous in performing his functions", and refuted the allegations of improper performance of his duties, the official reason stated for his dismissal.

According to Kyselyov, a struggle is currently underway in the Supreme Soviet for control over the Crimean government, since the Council of Ministers is directly connected with privatization of the peninsula's health resorts and oil and gas complex.

After dismissing Kyselyov however, the parliament failed to elect a new head of the parliament, since none of four candidates (Olexander Krouglov, Mykhailo Shumakov, Genadiy Roubtsov, Anatoliy Hrytsenko) gathered required majority of votes.

Voting scheduled on February 7 for two candidates who gathered most support - Genadiy Roubtsov (34 votes) and Anatoliy Hrytsenko (40 votes) did not take place due to absence of a quorum and the election of a new head out of the two runners-up was postponed.

Kyselyov, who was elected speaker in October 1996, had backed closer economic ties with Russia but ruled out separation from Ukraine.

Speaking at a Feb. 10 press conference Kyselyov pledged to follow Kuchma's policy in Crimea.

"We shall see to it that the presidential anti-corruption decree and the laws of Ukraine are fully enforced", he said.

That same day, about 200 delegates participated in Crimea's Russian community assembly in Simferopol.

The assembly called on ethnic Russians in Crimea to unite to defend their rights and national interests and to preserve and promote Russian culture.

The ouster of the speaker by the parliament and his subsequent appointment by Kuchma was only the latest in a series of events in the Crimean power struggle during the last few weeks.

On Feb. 5, the legislature voted by a narrow margin to dismiss its presidium.

The previous day, the parliament adopted a law stipulating that the region's government would be appointed and dismissed by its legislature.

The fight had been brewing for some time and springs not from political differences but from rivalries between different business interests (some of them criminal) that back the various parliamentary factions.

Last month the Crimean parliament voted to oust the government of Prime Minister Arkadiy Demydenko, but Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma suspended the decision, terming it unconstitutional.

According to Ukrainian legislation, the Crimean prime minister is directly appointed by the Ukrainian president. Kuchma referred the dispute to the Constitutional Court.

However, on Jan. 29, the Crimean parliament approved a second non-confidence motion against Demydenko's government,

Crimean Tatar deputies protested the motion by abstaining and Kyselyov said the vote was a "grave mistake and an act of defiance against the Ukrainian president," while Demydenko warned that he would urge Kuchma to disband the Crimean parliament.

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Five killed in mine accident

Ukraine's government has sent a commission to investigate an accident in which five miners died and five were injured in the Donbas region, Western agencies reported Feb. 8 and 9.

The accident took place late Feb. 7 when a block of ice crashed into the shaft elevator carrying them to the surface of the Karl Marx mine in the town of Yenakiyevo, located 50 kilometres northeast of Donetsk. Two of the wounded miners were in critical condition.

Last year, 338 workers died in accidents in Ukraine's mines, of which the nearly 100-year-old Karl Marx mine is particularly notorious.

It is the oldest mine in the Donetsk coal basin and almost all its machinery and premises badly need repairs, said AP citing ITAR-Tass.

Mine safety officials forbid operation of the shaft in which the tragic accident occurred after cold weather caused its top part to be covered with tons of ice — but mine managers ignored the prohibition, said reports by ITAR-Tass and Interfax.

The worst fatal accident in the Donbas coalfield occurred in June 1992 when 60 miners were killed after a gas explosion, said Reuters.

Miners protest wage arrears

(Ukrinform)—Over 800 miners staged a protest in front of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers on Feb. 4 to demand payment of wages.

The protesters were addressed by Coal Industry Minister Yuriy Rusantsov, who said that the Cabinet of Ministers is currently considering the issue.

He stated that February wages have been paid and that the ministries of economics, finance, and coal industry are currently finding ways of clearing arrears.

The miners also staged a protest in front of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada.

They demanded that the 1997 state budget should make provisions for clearance of the 380 million hryvnia (C$271.5 million) wage debt.

Addressing the protesters, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Moroz pledged that the parliament will do everything within its power to ensure approval of the relevant legislation.

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Renewed controversy over Chornobyl closure

(OMRI)—Ukrainian Nuclear Safety Minister Yuriy Kostenko has voiced frustration over the possibility that the G-7 may decide not to fund the construction of new nuclear reactors in Rivne and Khmelnitsky, AFP reported.

Kostenko said such a decision could mean that the Chornobyl nuclear plant would not be closed by 2000.

Last year, Ukraine promised to keep to that timetable in return for a G-7 aid package worth some US$3.1 billion to fund the closure and to finance alternate forms of energy. G-7 experts met in Washington Feb. 10 to discuss the aid package.

According to a recent EBRD report, Ukraine has failed to look at the energy sector as a whole, opting for two new nuclear reactors instead of improving existing thermal power plants.

Kostenko countered that Ukraine proposed developing thermal power two years ago but that EBRD opted for nuclear power.

Tax evasion may bring 10-year term

(InfoBank/UkrNews)—Parliament passed several changes to the Criminal Code Feb. 5, including a new law that would allow tax evaders to be sentenced to up to 10 years of imprisonment.

Under the new law, tax evaders will be sentenced according to three categories based upon the amount of taxes they have avoided.

The first category is for taxes equivalent to 100-250 untaxed minimum personal income's (u.m.p.i's). Currently one u.m.p.i is 17 hryvnia, or about C$12. The second category is 250 to 1,000 u.m.p.i, while the third is over 1,000. Repeat offenders can receive sentences between five and 10 years.

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UKRAINIAN NEWS
УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВІСТІ

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Proprietor: Ukrainian News Publishers Ltd.
Publisher: Edmonton Lasergraphics, A Division of Canadian Cryptics Ltd.
President: Marco Levytsky

Editor: Marco Levytsky
Hon. Kyiv Bureau Chief: Vitaliy Shevchenko
Typesetting & Layout: Irena Hladki
Advertising & Circulation: Alexandra Cybulsky

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Редактор: Марко Левицький
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Оголошення і розповсюд.: Оля Цибульська

Українські Вісті видає дво–тижнево *Едмонтон Лайзергрефикс, Відділ Кенейдієн Криптикс Лтд.* під контрактом із видавцями *Українські Вісті Лтд.* Річна передплата $30.00. Всі права застережені. Не можна репродукувати ніяких матеріялів без писаного дозволу видавця. Опінії висловлені в статтях не все відповідають опінії власника, видавця чи редакційної ради.

When will they ever learn?

The hearings of the Deschenes Commission of Inquiry into War Criminals in the mid-1980's aroused deep divisions between ethnocultural communities in Canada, but it resulted in a report and a solution that was hailed as fair by both Jewish and Ukrainian organizations in 1986. The solution was to try alleged war criminals in Canada under Canadian Law, rather than utilizing the deportation mechanism.

There is a very good reason for this. It is not necessary to prove a person's guilt under the deportation mechanism and the result can be a gross travesty of justice which is precisely what occurred in the case of Cleveland auto worker John Demjanjuk was was found not guilty by an Israeli court after a decade-long ordeal.

However, certain media outlets persist in stirring up the waters.

The "60 Minutes" episode "Canada's Dark Secret" was typical of the unbalanced and biased journalism the CBS program has become noted for. While it did not fall into the same category of outright, fabricated and malicious slander of "The Ugly Face of Freedom", which set a new low for gutter journalism, it certainly wasn't a fair and objective report. CFRN Television in Edmonton has been unjustly criticized for delaying broadcast of that episode. Actually, CFRN was only exercising responsible judgement. Having been burned once by "60 Minutes", the station was understandably cautious when word came out that the program was going to broadcast an episode on alleged war criminals in Canada.

But even "60 Minutes" had the sense not to interview Sol Littman, nor air his disproven charges about the Galician Division, which had been categorically cleared not once — but twice — of any charges that it participated in war crimes. So, it was up to The Calgary Sun to pick up the slack. Once The Sun had its story, it put it on both its own wire and the Canadian Press. Ironically the same day The Calgary Sun's Littman story went on the wire, The Ottawa Sun put out a story that at least 250 modern-day war criminals (former death squad members from Latin American countries, senior officials from the Bosnian-Serb, Somalian, Iraqi and Afghan regimes and the former Duvalier government of Haiti) are free in Canada. When both wire stories reached The Winnipeg Free Press, some editor put two and two together — and came out with three. The result was a rather confusing story which ran under the headline "War criminals settled in Alberta, Nazi-hunter says", which could lumped the Galician Division members with the above-mentioned groups.

Isn't it enough that the Galician Division had been cleared by British and Canadian authorities in 1950 and again by the Deschenes Commission in 1986? How many more totally unsubstantiated accusations must these individuals — who were simply fighting against an enemy which had murdered over 7 million of its people in one winter alone.

The problem is media outlets (whether through ignorance or malice) continue to give Littman ink even though his charges have been repeatedly disproved and Littman himself had been discredited by the Deschenes Commission. Off course, The Calgary Sun went through the motions of supposedly objective journalism by getting a rebuttal from a Ukrainian spokesman, but why give a discredited source credibility in the first place.

Once again Canada's Ukrainian community is forced to defend innocent people from unsubstantiated charges that have been disproven again and again.

When will the media learn that Sol Littman is simply not a credible source and printing his disproven charges only serves to fuel the flames of ethnic discord?

Кучма готує операцію «Чисті руки»

Опоненти побоюються репресій

Андрій Шевченко

(КБУВ)—Про свої наміри зайнятися корупцією у найвищих ешелонах української влади Леонід Кучма оголосив одразу після поїздки до Франції та на Всесвітний економічний форум у швейцарському Давосі. Кажуть, західні підприємці засипали його скаргами на українських чиновників–хабарників, а Президент Світового банку Джеймс Вулфенсон недвозначно дав зрозуміти, що масштаби подальшої допомоги Україні залежатимуть від успіхів у боротьбі з корумпованим чиновництвом.

Офіційною метою операції «Чисті руки», про підготовку якої оголосив український Президент, є покращення інвестиційного клімату в державі та виправлення її негативного іміджу у світі. Насамперед плянується створення Національного бюро розслідувань, яке розробники програми порівнюють із американським FBI. Зі слів Кучми, воно зосередиться на зловживаннях саме у владних верхах — як виконавчої, так і законодавчої влади. Передбачається також створення спеціяльних груп, які безпосередньо «вестимуть» найважливіші інвестиційні проєкти. Цікаво, що окрема група має розслідувати ситуацію на українському газовому ринку, у втручанні в перерозподіл якого неодноразово звинувачувався прем'єр П. Лазаренко.

Тотальну корумпованість чиновників відносять в Україні до найтяжчої комуністичної спадщини. Поруч з відбудовою економіки очищення від корупції залишається одним із найскладніших завдань, які вже гостро стоять перед українським суспільством. На продажність посадових осіб усіх рівнів жаліються більшість західних підприємців та інвесторів, які працюють в Україні. Хоча ті з них, які добре засвоїли стиль роботи українського чиновника, почувають себе досить непогано в умовах економіки, значна частина якої залишається нерозержавленою і без належного контролю.

Корумпованість є однією з основних причин недовіри до влади з боку українців, які сумніваються у чесності всіх державних службовців — від дрібного клерка–хабарника до Президента. Структури ж, які повинні займатися боротьбою зі злочинністю, не в змозі викорінити корупцію навіть у власних рядах. Міністр внутрішніх справ Юрій Кравченко, приміром, дізнався днями, що 250 співробітників його відомства перебувають під слідством. А глава Адміністрації Президента Євген Кушнарьов визнав корумпованість навіть Служби безпеки України, якім тепер доводиться мати справу не зі скромними дисидентами, а з блискавично розбагатілими «новими українцями».

Окрім пропагандистського ефекту на Заході, на який, очевидно, розраховує Кучма, оголошення війни корупції чітко вписується у логіку розпочатої ним передвиборної боротьби.

По–перше, вже очевидно, що в наступних виборах імідж борця з мафією буде так само привабливим, як і в 1994–му, коли наведення порядку було одним із гасел, що привели Кучму до влади.

По–друге, в Києві за всіма структурними перебудовами в силових відомствах уже звикли шукати намагання встановити щільнішу контролю над ними. Для Леоніда Кучми це важливо хоча б через загальновідомі симпатії багатьох «силовиків» до Євгена Марчука — колишнього прем'єра і ймовірного суперника Кучми.

Нарешті, оголошення війни мафії є геніяльним «стримуючим» засобом, як для опонентів нинішнього Президента, так і для всієї політичної еліти. Характерно, що автор ідеї створення Бюро розслідувань в Україні і відомий голова антикорупційної комісії Верховної Ради Григорій Омельченко сьогодні побоюється, що під гаслом боротьби з мафією реальним є усунення своїх конкурентів як у політичній сфері, так і в бізнесі.

Появу президентського указу про початок операції «Чисті руки» очікують після 14 лютого, коли має відбутися засідання Координаційного комітету боротьби з корупцією при Президентові. Тоді ж, мабуть, буде прийнято остаточне рішення про створення НБР, яке найімовірніше, очолить голова Комітету Олег Литвак.

Знаючі люди стверджують, що компромітні справи при потребі знайдуться на будь–кого з українських політиків. Хоча за умов відносного паритету у протистоянні компромітаціям лавини відставок та гучних скандалів, як це було в Італії та Польщі, від «Чистих рук» по–українськи у Києві не очікують. Щоправда, у разі проведення кількох показових процесів подальший розвиток подій може бути драматичним. Все залежить від того, хто стане першою жертвою.

Повернення депортованих народів залишається не простою проблемою

Валентина Пащенко

(ДІНАУ–Укрінформ)—Розробка механізмів забезпечення оптимального співвідношення задоволення інтересів і потреб української нації та національних меншин була в центрі уваги діяльності Державного комітету України у справах національностей та міграції в 1996 році, підкреслювалося 5 лютого на засіданні колегії даного відомства.

Насамперед, тривало вдосконалення чинного законодавства України та нормативної бази державної політики з цих питань, зазначив у своїй доповіді голова комітету Володимир Євтух. Зокрема, торік було підготовлено проєкт Закону «Про внесення змін і доповнень до Закону України «Про національні меншини в Україні» Розроблено проєкти концепції державної етнополітики України та Державної програми розвитку культур національних меншин України на період до 2000 року.

Голова Держкомнацміграції серед інших завдань найважливішим назвав доопрацювання законопроєктів та нормативних актів щодо створення в Україні єдиної міграційної служби, маючи на увазі доопрацювання комітетом проєктів концепції формування Державної міграційної служби України і програми заходів щодо її формування.

Характеризуючи етнополітичну ситуацію в державі, Євтух звернув увагу на непросту проблему повернення та облаштування депортованих народів.

«Прикро, але варто констатувати, що повернення депортованих осіб як добровільний, організований процес все ще здебільшого відбувається стихійно», сказав він.

«Тому вкрай актуальною є розробка перспективної програми організованого повернення, розселення та облаштування в Криму депортованих кримських татар та осіб інших національностей».

Євтух висловив сподівання, що міжнародна допомога, зокрема з боку Міжнародної організації з міграції (МОМ), Управління Верховного комісара в справах біженців (УВКБ), Міжнародного фонду «Відродження» та Ісламського банку розвитку, стане тим фактором, який суттєво вплине на вирішення проблем депортованих народів.

На засіданні йшлося також про практичні заходи, спрямовані на реалізацію державної етнополітики щодо українців зарубіжжя. Вони здійснюються у рамках Державної програми «Українська діяспора на період до 2000 року», основними напрямами якої є створення правової бази захисту інтересів української діяспори, сприяння її культурно–освітньому відродженню та розвитку, задоволення інформаційних потреб міграційної політики.

Губернатором Тюменської області став українець

(Радіо Люкс)—Президент України Леонід Кучма надіслав поздоровлення губернатору Тюменської області Росії Леоніду Рокецькому у зв'язку зі вступом останнього на цю посаду.

Новообраний губернатор Тюменської області народився у Тернопільській області, закінчив Львівський політехнічний інститут.

Л. Кучма побажав тюменському губернатору успішної та плідної роботи на високій державній посаді і висловив сподівання, що Л. Рокецький і надалі уважно ставитиметься до розвитку та зміцнення прямих взаємовигідних економічних зв'язків з регіонами України.

Ukraine plans to enhance NATO ties

(JF Monitor/OMRI/Ukrinform)—President Leonid Kuchma has informed NATO secretary-general Javier Solana and other Western leaders at the Davos (Switzerland) World Economic Forum that the relatively narrow scope of the Partnership for Peace program no longer meets Ukraine's needs.

Kyiv expects to sign a special partnership agreement with NATO entailing a consultative mechanism that reflects both the 16 + 1 formula and recognition of the importance of Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity for Europe's security.

"NATO is an alliance of democratic and civilized states which do not threaten or pose territorial claims on anyone... The more (Moscow mayor Yuri) Luzhkov visits Sevastopol, the greater the number of Ukrainians who will call for joining NATO," Kuchma said.

In Kyiv on Feb. 3 and 4, British Defense Secretary Michael Portillo endorsed Ukraine's goal of establishing official relations with NATO, including the opening of missions in Kyiv and Brussels, and the signing of a special partnership agreement with NATO at the upcoming allied summit in Madrid.

The partnership entails cooperation, but is not full NATO membership. During a speech at the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, Portillo said that the partnership agreement would guarantee Ukraine's "sovereignty and integrity."

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council Head Volodymyr Horbulin, Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, and Defense Minister Oleksandr Kuzmuk proposed both that negotiations between NATO and Ukraine proceed parallel to, but independently of, NATO-Russia talks, and that the agreement with Ukraine be signed at the NATO summit regardless of whether the NATO-Russia talks conclude successfully.

The Ukrainian officials recognized that their country's level of economic and military development makes it ineligible for joining NATO at present or in the near term.

However, they intimated — as they have with increasing frequency of late — that Ukraine reserves the option to apply for NATO membership in the future.

Portillo and the Ukrainian officials also agreed on establishing regular exchanges of visits between British and Ukrainian military personnel of various ranks.

Ukraine is due to hold a joint military exercise with British and Polish units next month.

Meanwhile, Luzhkov told a Feb. 4 press conference that "Russia is strong enough to take defensive measures which will force hot heads in the West to reconsider" expanding NATO.

In response to a question about Ukraine's desire for an "enhanced relationship" with the alliance, Luzhkov retorted that "Ukraine will not be so stupid as to join NATO."

That last comment was condemned by the "Democratic Choice of Russia" party, which issued a statement saying that Luzhkov's irresponsible actions and comments were aggravating the already strained relations between Russia and Ukraine and placing territorial claims upon Ukraine.

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Solana says NATO has obligation to East

(RFE/RL)—NATO Secretary General Javier Solana on Jan. 30 declared the alliance has what he called "a moral obligation" to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe which want to join it.

Solana said the area's new democracies want "to join the Alliance for the same reasons why (the 16 current) members do not want to leave it." NATO must "help them fulfill their legitimate aspirations," he said.

In remarks to the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg, Solana did not specify which or how many Eastern countries would be asked first to join the Alliance. He said that decision would be taken at NATO's summit meeting in July.

Solana also underlined the importance of NATO's evolving relation with Ukraine, a country, he said, that "occupies a crucial place in Europe." He said an independent, stable and democratic Ukraine is of great strategic importance for all of Europe. He said Improved relations between Ukraine and Russia are as important as Ukraine's reliable partnership with NATO.

Nuclear fuel shortage predicted

(InfoBank)—Deputy Chief of the State Committee on Nuclear Energy Valentina Kodaniova forecasts severe problems for Ukraine's nuclear power production in 1997.

Speaking with journalists she said it is this year that agreement to get Russian nuclear fuel in exchange for nuclear warheads previously taken to Russia expires and the committee has not accumulated sufficient funds for the purchase of fuel due to non-payment by customers.

Kodaniova says the price for fuel accounts for 25% of the cost of the power produced by nuclear power plants.

As on Jan. 1, debts to power plants stood at UAH 1.4 billion (C$1 billion). Only 71% of the total volume of power sold to customers are paid. The biggest debtors are big industrial enterprises and those with the Ministry of Agriculture.

This, in turn, leads to a salary debt. The Zaporizhia NPP itself owes its employees the equivalent of C$24.5 million.

Rada increases minimum wage

(OMRI)—Ukrainian lawmakers voted to increase the minimum monthly wage from 15 hryvnias (C$11) to 70.9 hryvnias, Ukrainian and international agencies reported on Feb. 6.

Labor Minister Mykola Biloblotsky warned the move would cost the state budget 32 billion hryvnias this year.

The average monthly wage for Ukraine's industrial workers is now 157 hryvnias.

Meanwhile, around 2,000 Ukrainian teachers gathered in downtown Kyiv to demand up to nine months' back pay.

The state owes university and school teachers 260 million hryvnias.

The teachers threatened a national strike if the government does not abandon its plans this year to decrease budget expenditures on education by one-third.

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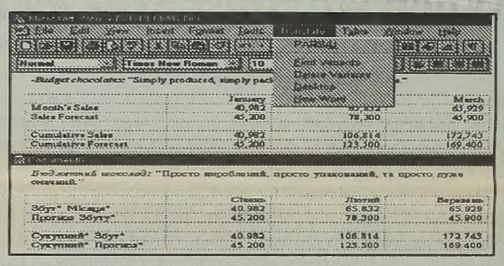

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If Ukrainian or English documents are faxed directly into your computer (via the fax-modem) the entire process is even easier. During the first stage, FineReader ensures that the OCR process is performed properly and spellchecks the text to make sure that any and all mistakes are eliminated and that the text is ready for translation. Then the second stage provides a with a professional translation from Ukrainian to English or vice versa.

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Russians blast Tatars

(OMRI)—The Russian Society of Crimea has claimed that the Crimean Tatar Assembly's recent appeal to the Ukrainian and Crimean authorities is "dictated by the desire to gain political privileges in accordance with ethnic origin," UNIAN reported on Feb. 8.

Tatars leaders are collecting signatures to the appeal in order to draw attention in Ukraine and abroad to problems encountered by Tatars returning to Crimea after the mass-expulsion in the 1940s.

The Russian Society said that, as a result of their actions, the Crimean Tatar leaders could aggravate interethnic tensions on the peninsula. It urged the Ukrainian president and parliament "not to be under the thumb of the (Crimean Tatar Assembly) and not to divide citizens into natives and non-natives."

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Please reply in confidence with resume and covering letter specifying salary expectations by March 31 to:

Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Centre
Attention: Search Committee
184 Alexander Avenue East,
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* * *

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Просимо до 31 березня присилати конфіденційне резюме разом з вступним листом, в якому вказати на яку заробітну плату ви розраховуєте:

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Chirac assures Kuchma during visit

(JF Monitor/Ukrinform)—At the first-ever French-Ukrainian summit, held in Paris Jan. 30-31, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma obtained assurances from French president Jacques Chirac and Foreign Minister Herve de Charette that Paris will support Kyiv on a broad range of economic and political issues.

Those issues include Ukraine's efforts to win delivery of G-7, European Union, and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development aid toward closure of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant; wider access of Ukrainian exports to EU markets; Ukraine's admission to the World Trade Organization; and the signing of a partnership agreement between NATO and Ukraine at the upcoming NATO summit in Madrid.

Kuchma also met with executives of Framatom and other French energy firms interested in the reconstruction of Ukraine's nuclear and conventional energy sector. The two governments set up a high-level joint commission for trade and economic cooperation and signed a cultural cooperation agreement.

France lags behind most other major industrial powers in terms of trade with and investment in the newly independent states. Its capital investment in Ukraine, to date, amounts only to US$12 million.

The Chirac administration has made it a priority to enter those markets.

It realizes that Ukraine, whose potential as an economic partner has barely been tapped, offers ample scope for new entrants. French firms expresses interest in about 40 projects in various sectors of Ukraine's economy.

Among some of the potential prospects are the metallurgical, chemical and defense industries. French companies could also participate in financing the completion of Ukraine's An-70 airplane. French experts believe that the plane could be used by NATO, especially since a similar Western project has been iced.

Kyiv, for its part, hopes that France will exercise its clout in European institutions in order to promote their engagement with Ukraine.

Negotiations with Romania at crucial juncture

(JF Monitor)—Ukrainian president Leonid Kuchma told western leaders at the Davos World Economic Forum that NATO should not admit Romania so long as Bucharest makes territorial claims on Ukraine.

In a statement Feb. 2, Kuchma added that Romanian president Emil Constantinescu offered assurances that Bucharest will in the next few months sign the interstate treaty with Ukraine, which entails mutual recognition of existing borders.

Other Romanian leaders have made similar statements to senior western officials, with Foreign Minister Adrian Severin expressing concern that protracted negotiations risk opening a "Pandora's box" of additional issues in dispute.

The treaty negotiations have been frustrated since 1992 mainly by Bucharest's insistence on inclusion of a treaty clause that would implicitly describe Ukraine's possession of parts of Bessarabia and Bukovyna as an unjust consequence of the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop pact.

More directly, Bucharest has challenged Ukraine's title to Serpent Island in the Black Sea, a former Romanian possession where oil and gas deposits are at stake.

The Romanian democratic leaders who came to power last November announced that they would drop "historic" territorial claims and speed up the signing of the treaty with Ukraine in order to boost Romania's chances of admission to the European Union and NATO.

The latest negotiating round, held in Bucharest last month, seemed nevertheless to open up precisely that Pandora's box of additional disputes.

Romania asserted that Ukraine "holds illegally" some islands in the Danube Delta, and proposed adjusting the mutual border on the Danube's Kilia arm in Romania's favor.

Bucharest also asked that the ethnic Moldovan minority in Ukraine be redefined as Romanian.

The sides agreed to hold another round of talks in Kyiv but have not yet set a date.

U.S budget earmarks $225 million for Ukraine

(RFE/RL)—US President Bill Clinton Feb. 6 asked the U.S. Congress for a US$1.69 trillion to fund the government in the financial year that starts Oct. 1.

In the foreign aid portion of the budget request, Clinton asks $225 million for Ukraine and $95 million for Armenia. Those are the only former Soviet republics targeted for specific amounts of aid.

The President's proposed budget includes a request for $492 million for assistance programs in Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic nations and $900 million for the states of the former Soviet Union.

The Clinton budget also asks for nearly $367 million to finance all non-military international broadcasting operations. That would be an increase of more than $41 million over what the U.S. expects to spend this year.

The broadcasting account covers the operations of the Voice of America — which broadcasts around the world; Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty — an independent corporation which broadcasts to the former Soviet Union and to Eastern and Central Europe; Radio Free Asia — which broadcasts to China and other Asian countries; radio and television broadcasting to Cuba; the U.S. Information Agency's WORLDNET television service, and the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which oversees the broadcast operations.

Zyuganov enters BSF fray

(Ukrinform)—Russian Communist Leader Gennadi Zyuganov, who is a member of the Russian Federal Assembly's official delegation to the European Council Parliamentary Assembly, held a press conference in Strasbourg, Jan. 29, to urge the retention of the Black Sea Fleet as an indivisible entity.

He said this is essential for the national security of both Russia and Ukraine.

Replying to a question about prospects of solving the BSF dispute, Zyuganov said that if the negotiations were to take two or three more years, it would be hard to find any BSF ship capable of leaving port, since the most recent ones are 15 years old and all are in bad need of repair.

Zyuganov also said he strongly disagrees with those Russian politicians whose bellicose outcries about Sevastopol as the city of Russian naval glory may lead to highly negative consequences for many generations.

Instead, he advocated a broad political treaty to be signed by Russia and Ukraine, which would promote the re-establishment of many ruptured links between the two nations.

Ukraine, Estonia initial social security agreement

(OMRI)—Ukrainian and Estonian government delegations in Tallinn on Feb. 7 initialed an agreement that would allow residents of both countries, even if they relocate to the other country, to continue receiving pensions, child support, medical services, and compensation for work-related accidents, ETA reported.

Another agreement on mutual recognition of certification of goods was also initialed that day.

Trade volumes between the two countries increased by 171.4% in 1996 compared to 1995, due primarily to the implementation of a free trade agreement in March 1996.

The agreements are to be signed during Prime Minister Tiit Vahi's visit to Kyiv later this month and will go into effect after ratification by both parliaments.

Ukraine boosts trade with Iran

(OMRI)—Ukraine has won Iranian industrial orders worth $52 billion after a week-long visit by an Iranian delegation headed by the country's industry minister, Reuters reported on Feb. 9.

Tehran ordered metallurgy products worth $26.5 million and railway locomotives and carriages worth $25.5 million.

Kyiv officials said Ukraine wants to buy Iranian oil and gas to ease its dependency on Russian imports, but because of a shortage of pipelines and terminals, the deal has not been signed.

Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko said earleir that Ukraine, in trading with Iran, would not violate international restrictions and complained of excessive speculations on Ukraine's ties to Iran

Bonnyville dancers commission Shostak work for fund-raiser

By Darren Pinkoski,
Bonnyville Nouvelle

Two Bonnyville dance groups have enlisted the help of former local residents to help raise money for the organizations.

The Kryla Ukrainian Dancers and the Canadian Folk Dance Society commissioned a print by Peter Shostak to commemorate 20 years of Ukrainian dancing in Bonnyville.

"I hope it does serve your needs and you are able to use it as a fund-raiser," said Shostak, who was in Bonnyville for the official unveiling, recently.

Prior to the unveiling current Kryla instructor Nathan Ostashewski and former instructor David Sharun talked about Ukrainian dancing in Canada and in the local region.

Ukrainian dancing started in Canada in the 1920s by Vasyl Avramenko, a Ukrainian immigrant who crossed the country over the space of three years and taught dancing in approximately 125 communities.

From that a handful of semi-professional groups started in the 1950's and 60s, including Shumka and Cheremosh in Edmonton. Ostashewski estimated there have been 10,000 children participating in Ukrainian dancing and between 3,000 and 4,000 adult stage performers in the last 20 years alone, indicating how the popularity of the cultural pastime has grown over 70 years.

Ukrainian dancing started in Bonnyville, located 250 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, in 1977 with the Bonnyville Ukrainian Dance Club, founded by Helen Skuba, Alice Kahanyshyn and Gertrude Mercier.

In 1987, the name Kryla (Wings) was adopted. Between 1977 and 1987, the club averaged 40 dancers per year. Enrollments ballooned to 105 in 1993, causing a number of growing pains, such as having to hold dance ceremonies over two days to get all the parents and participants in.

Over the last few years, the number of Kryla dancers has followed provincial trends and declined to 75 this year. Both groups have participated in a number of festivals and competitions, including Festival '88 in Edmonton celebrating the millennium of Ukrainian Christianity. Also, in celebration of 20 years of Ukrainian dancing in Bonnyville, both groups are planning to collaborate on a mini-tour next year of the area.

Shostak spoke about the painting and about Ukrainian culture in general. He said even as much as a half-century ago, the presence of buildings, names and even the garb of area residents told visitors that Ukrainian culture was alive and strong in the area.

"They knew we were here because of the clothes that we wore...They knew we were here because of the buildings that we built," said Shostak.

He said Ukrainian dance is what tells people that Ukrainian culture is alive and well in Canada.

"If it wasn't for Ukrainian dancing..there wouldn't be much. Ukrainian dancing is part of Canada. It's not just claimed by Ukrainians, it's claimed by Canadians."

Print has definite Shostak characteristics

(Bonnyville Nouvelle)—For those who know Peter Shostak and his works, his latest for the Kryla Ukrainian Dancers and the Canadian Folk Dance Society is definitely one of his.

The painting, depicting a group of brightly colored Ukrainian dancers on a farm setting, was commissioned by the two dance groups as a fund-raiser.

The unique hue of blue which has been nicknamed Shostak Blue is present once again but this time in the car which sits in the foreground.

Another form of artistic license, so to speak, is within the automobile's plates as he spells out his name in vanity plates which were nowhere to be seen at the time setting of the painting. Shostak not only creates an image but tells a story within the image by the expressions of the people and their placements within the painting.

These additions only add to the experience for the viewer as they form their own impressions and even have their own memories jogged by the images they see before them.

"I think it will bring back a lot of memories."

It took him one month to complete the work. While many of his other paintings, such as farming or playing hockey on a frozen pond, came out of his own personal experiences, he didn't have the same option for the Ukrainian dancing since he did not participate and had left Bonnyville several years before the Ukrainian dance group started up.

The research was something he undertook over time, using libraries of photos and compiling images over the years.

Shostak said he enjoyed the work and wouldn't mind being a part of a similar fund-raiser in the near future.

Only 300 prints of the painting are available and are expected to raise $45,000 before costs are deducted.

Cheremosh hosts February frolic

The Ukrainian Cheremosh Society hosted its third Annual February Frolic Feb.1 at St. Basil's Cultural Centre in Edmonton.

A lively crowd came out to enjoy the evening's festivities of dining, dancing, entertainment and spending their hard earned cash at Cheremosh's First Silent Auction.

During the program M.C. and Cheremosh Alumni Brian Hlus relived some of his past memories of performing with Cheremosh before introducing the Society's President John Palahniuk.

Palahniuk mentioned up and coming changes to the Society and that planning has commenced for 1998 — Cheremosh's 30th Anniversary.

The crowd was entertained by the Society's young performers Cheremosh started the program with their traditional Privit (Welcome Dance). This was followed by lively numbers by the future Cheremosh Dancers of Chumak I, Chumak II & Cheremshyna.

Cheremosh concluded the performances with the colorful and energetic dance Hopak, which brought the crowd to their feet.

The dance followed with music played by one of North America's finest Ukrainian Dance Bands, Mria, from Saskatoon.

Cheremosh performing at St. Basil's.

The Silent Auction was a great success. It consisted of 56 items. Included were an Artists' Copy of Peter Shostak's "They won't go as far as we did" winter scene, an autographed football from the 1996 Edmonton Eskimos, paintings, jewelry and much more.

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Peter Shostak

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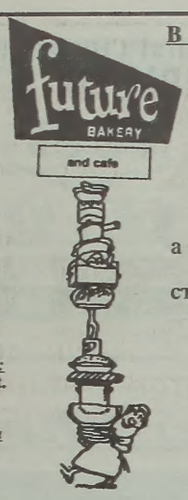

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У Стамбулі відбулася зустріч міністрів ЧЕС

(Укрінформ)—Зустріч міністрів закордонних справ країн–членів Чорноморського Економічного Співробітництва за участю міністрів економіки відбулася в Стамбулі, повідомили ДІНАУ–Укрінформ в управлінні інформації МЗС України. Участь у зустрічі взяли представники країн–членів ЧЕС: Албанії, Вірменії, Азербайджану, Грузії, Болгарії, Греції, Молдови, Румунії, Росії, Туреччини та України, а також спостерігачі з Австрії, Єгипту, Ізраїлю, Польщі, Італії, Словаччини і Тунісу.

З привітанням до присутніх звернулася міністр закордонних справ, віце–прем'єр–міністр Республіки Туреччини Тансу Чілер. У її виступі та у виступах глав делегацій зазначалося про важливість обговорення питань в контексті участі ЧЕС в процесах європейської інтеграції. Зокрема, наголошувалося на створенні зони вільної торгівлі в Чорноморському регіоні. Це дасть можливість усім країнам здобути суттєві вигоди від зростання обсягів взаємної торгівлі та відкриття нових і розширення традиційних зв'язків у цьому регіоні. Було підкреслено доцільність прискорення роботи над реалізацією конкретних проєктів, передусім у галузі транспорту.

Глава делегації України, заступник міністра закордонних справ України Борис Гудима, зазначив, що Україна рішуче підтримує положення Декларації зустрічі глав держав та урядів 25 жовтня 1996 року в Москві стосовно створення у Чорноморському регіоні зони вільної торгівлі. Як відзначив тоді у своєму виступі Президент України Леонід Кучма, ця пропозиція відповідає стратегії розвитку зовнішньоекономічних відносин України. Також було запропоновано провести у Києві зустріч на міністерському рівні, яка згідно рішення уряду України може відбутися у період головування України в ЧЕС.

Було схвалено Декларацію про наміри щодо створення зони вільної торгівлі у Чорноморському регіоні та плян заходів щодо реалізації положень Московської декларації, рішень та рекомендацій 8–ої зустрічі міністрів закордонних справ країні–учасниць ЧЕС.

Глава делегації України провів також двосторонні зустрічі з керівниками делегацій країн–учасниць ЧЕС. Зокрема, в ході бесіди з міністром закордонних справ Румунії Адріаном Северином відбувся обмін думками щодо підходів сторін до погодження тексту Міждержавного договору.

Триває паспортизація

(ДІНАУ–Укрінформ)—На 1 січня 1997 р., 7,594,315 осіб одержали паспорти громадянина України, що складає 18,1 відсотка від загальної кількості дорослого населення держави. Такі дані ДІНАУ–Укрінформ одержав з прес–служби кабінету Міністрів України.

У минулому році у середньому щомісяця 525,530 осіб одержували паспорти громадянина України, що на 5,1 відсотка перевищує розраховане відповідно до потужності виготовлення бланків паспортів контрольне число. Цей показник значно кращий у Київській, Закарпатській, Херсонській і Винницькій областях.

Як і раніше досить повільно йде паспортизація в Севастополі, Автономній Республіці Крим, Донецькій, Тернопільській, Луганській, Херсонській, Львівській і Дніпропетровській областях та Києві.

Протягом 1995–1996 років одержано від справляння державного мита за видачу паспортів 49,7 млн. гривень. Загальна сума коштів, що одержана від справляння плати за оформлення паспортів громадянина України для виїзду за кордон, складає 13,1 млн. гривень.

Чеська Республіка займає важливе місце в міжнародних відносинах

(ДІНАУ–Укрінформ)—Широке коло питань, що стосуються нинішнього стану українсько–чеського співробітництва та перспектив його розвитку було обговорено на зустрічі заступника Голови Верховної Ради України Віктора Мусіяки з Надзвичайним і Повноважним Послом Чеської Республіки в Україні Павелом Маша, яка відбулася 29 січня на його прохання.

Під час бесіди йшлося, насамперед, про двосторонні міжпарляментські зв'язки. На думку посла, вони розвиваються успішно. Але нині необхідно їм надати нових імпульсів. Це важливо насамперед з урахуванням того, що нинішній склад чеського парляменту фактично повністю оновлений. Посол підкреслив, що Голова парляменту Чеської Республіки Мілош Земан висловив бажання відвідати Україну. На думку чеської сторони, у наших відносинах з Україною, як на міжпарляментському так на міждержавному рівнях, не має проблем. Існують лише резерви, які ми повинні разом привести в дію.

Заступник Голови Верховної Ради Віктор Мусіяка погодився з оцінками посла і додав, що необхідно інтенсифікувати зв'язки на рівні міжпарляментських груп, що надасть такому співробітництву більшої динаміки.

Робоча поїздка посла України в КНР

(ДІНАУ–Укрінформ)—Відбулася робоча поїздка посла України в Китайській Народній Республіці Анатолія Плюшка до центральнокитайської провінції Хубей на запрошення її керівництва.

Вона мала на меті активізацію традиційних зв'язків України з цією провінцією, яка є піонером міжрегіонального співробітництва серед провінцій Китаю з областями нашої держави, а також надання нового імпульсу розвиткові економічного співробітництва і торгівлі, зокрема забезпечення участі України в будівництві найбільшого в світі гідроенергетичного комплексу «Три ущелини» та інших об'єктів гідроенергетики Китаю, що знаходяться на території провінції, і виходу на її ринок з експортними товарами українського виробництва.

У ході поїздки по провінції посол України ознайомився з економічним розвитком міста Ічан, яке підтримує дружні зв'язки з Запоріжжям, оглянув будівництво ГЕС «Три ущелини». Він відвідав також місто Чжицзян і провів переговори з його керівництвом щодо встановлення дружніх звязків і розвитку співробітництва з одним із міст Київської області.

Реґензбурґ–Одеса: Нові горизонти партнерства

(ДІНАУ–Укрінформ)—Співробітництво Одеси із придунайським містом Реґенсбурґом, за свідченням мера українського міста Едуарда Гурвіца, активно розвивається у різних галузях. Вагомою є гуманітарна допомога баварців одеським партнерам, яка сягає 30 млн. нім. марок і включає ліки, медичне обладнання, меблі, іграшки для дитячих будинків, тощо.

Генеральний консул України Г. Хоружий відвідав центр Верхнього Палацу і в розмові з обербургомістром міста Г. Шайдінгером висловив глибоку подяку за надану підтримку. Однак основним змістом бесіди було питання поглиблення співпраці, особливо у сфері торговельно–економічних відносин.

Досягнуто принципової згоди на проведення спільної зустрічі підприємців, здійснення пробного туристичного маршруту по Дунаю, продовження спортивних і культурних обмінів. Продуктивною виглядає ідея співпраці в страховій медицині з можливим підключенням до програми TACIS.

Проте здійснити задумане, як підкреслив Г. Шайдінгер, можна лише за умовами добре продуманого ставлення до справи, фінансово–правового обґрунтування та високої відповідальності партнерів.

CLASSIFIED

МАТРИМОНІЯЛЬНЕ. Українка, доброго характеру, симпатична, 32 роки, лікар, розведена (не з її вини) виховує 10–річного сина, бажає познайомитись з мужчиною — українцем, приблизного віку. Проситься писати на адресу: Малинчук Леся, дім 5, квартира 44, вул. Данилишиних, місто Трускавець, Львівська обл., Україна.

ПРОДАЄТЬСЯ ДВІ КВАРТИРИ У КИЄВІ.
1) 3 кімнати, загальна площа 60 квм, сонячна сторона. Два балкони, 8 поверх 9–поверхового будинку. На кухні та в ванній і туалеті кахель, підлога – паркет. Коридор зі шафами, телефон. Близько від автобусних зупинок, біля базару «Юність».
2) На Оболоні близько від зупинки метро «Оболонь». 2–кімнатна квартира, заг. площа 56 квм, балкон, 4–ий поверх 9–поверхового будинку, туалет, ванна та кухня – кахель, підлога – паркет. Квартира з мебеллю, сонячна сторона.
Ціна кожного – 26.000 дол. США або канадські за курсом. Дзвонити, тел: 489–2680 після 6 год. вечера.

УКРАЇНСЬКЕ МУЗИЧНЕ ТОВАРИСТВО Альберти і Конґрес Українців Канади (відділ Едмонтон) запрошує вас на річний **ШЕВЧЕНКІВСЬКИЙ КОНЦЕРТ,** який відбудеться в неділю 9–го березня 1997 р. о 3–ій год. в Першій Презбитеріянській Церкві (10025–105 вул.). Пам'ять поета Тараса Шевченка буде вшанована хоровою музикою, деклямуванням, та дитячим театром. Вступ по 8 долярів заздалегідь і 10 долярів при дверях, а безплатно дітям до 14 літ. Квитки продаються в Українській книгарні (422–4255).

Чи Ваші діти, чи внуки слідкують за подіями в Україні?

Якщо ні, то:

Купіть їм передплату на «Українські вісті»

«Українські вісті» подають дуже багату інформацію про Україну і про нашу громаду в Канаді. Тому, що ми також друкуємо в англійській мові, нашу газету можуть читати і ті, котрі не читають по–українськи. Тим способом можуть познайомитися із найновішими подіями в Україні.

Заповніть, будь ласка, цю форму, а ми вислемо газету разом із повідомленням про подарунок.

Доручаю передплату на _____ примірників. Вишліть, будь ласка, на таку адресу:

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Ukrainian News
Suite 1, 12227 - 107 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5M 1Y9

Volya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

Volya to tour Western Canada

Edmonton's Volya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble will premier a boldly creative new program created by State honoured artist of Ukraine Bohdan Tkachyshyn and Svitlana Tkachyshyn during its Emergence of Volya Tour of Western Canada. The nine-city western tour in February and March will visit Saskatoon, Grande Prairie, North Battlefords, Regina, Lac La Biche, Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary and Edmonton.

Volya, which means freedom, displays a new level of choreographic depth with its program of 18 regional, lyrical and comedy dances. The performance will also premier a new Ukrainian musical score based on traditional fold melodies, arranged and orchestrated by Stanislav Khytriak and will feature beautiful, authentic costumes direct from Ukraine.

Under the Artistic Direction of State Honoured Artist of Ukraine Bohdan Tkachyshyn and Svitlana Tkachyshyn (Lviv), Volya has embarked on a extensive redevelopment of its repertoire. Their experience and creative talents have developed a higher standard of technical skill and raised the profile of the ensemble. Over the past 25 years, Bohdan and Svitlana have travelled to over 23 countries as ambassadors of Ukrainian Dance instructing many professional and amateur ensembles. The Tkachyshyns, who have dedicated their lives to Ukrainian dance, have a list to many accomplishments including: over 20 international dance workshops, many choreographic awards and artistic directorships of the State Honoured Ensemble of Ukraine "Unist" and the Ukrainian Dance Ensemble "Karpaty" (Lviv). In March, 1996, they became the Artistic Directors of the Volya Ukrainian Dance Ensemble.

State Honoured Artists of Ukraine Ihor Bohdan will be the guest artist for the Emergence of Volya tour. Ihor has captivated audiences with his beautiful voice throughout North America and Ukraine where he returns to yearly to sold out concerts.

The Company's 45 volunteer dancers formed Volya in 1989 and have since entertained and captivated audiences at such high profile events as Edmonton's Klondike Days, First Night Festival, Vesna Festival (Saskatoon), Canada's National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, New Jersey's Garden State and the Yonkers N.Y. Festivals, the prestigious Centennial Celebration and have performed at the Hopak in the Park Festival in Edmonton, featuring some of Canada's most outstanding artists. Following Volya's tour of Western Canada, they will perform in southern California in August, Eastern Canada in Autumn and Europe and Ukraine in the summer of 1998.

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Lac La Biche	February 16
Victoria	February 21
Vancouver	February 23
Calgary	March 1
Edmonton	March 21 & 22

Call your local box office!

the freedom will move you!

Ukrainian Old Timers release new album

The Ukrainian Old Timers are a musical group of talented musicians that have blended their music to create a unique Ukrainian sound. Yes! down to earth, Ukrainian country style, toe-tapping, foot stomping, Ukrainian music.

The Ukrainian Old Timers are proud to release their eighth release entitled "8 Cylinder" Ukrainian music. The album is comprised of the following selections: *8 Cylinder, Peed-Pehre'nom, Russian Fantasy, Spit-Toon Polka, Little Peter, Cockshutt Polka, Simyons Polka, Alberta Wedding March, Wooh-Haa, 10 Below Polka, Orange Crush Waltz, Baba-O'lese, Road to Sarto, Tabacca & Carpathska Kolomeyka.*

The Ukrainian Old timers consist of the following musicians: Mike Grywinski, violin; Linda Shydlowsky, cymbaly-bass and vocals; Lorne Zayshley, violin and mandolin; Nester Shydlowsky, accordion and vocals; Taras Paley, drums & vocals and Randy Zayshely, lead guitar and vocals.

The Ukrainian Old Timers recordings will provide you countless hours of listening and dancing enjoyment. On behalf of the Old Timers we would like to express our appreciation of the great support that the many fans have shown over the years. We hope to bring you many more releases in the future.

New Release!
Volume 8

The
Ukrainian Oldtimers
"8-Cylinder" Ukrainian Music

The Ukrainian Old Timers proudly presents their latest release ***"8 Cylinder" Ukrainian Music.*** Now available at your local record store. Or simply write to ***Baba's Records at 275 Selkirk Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2S 2L7.*** Enclose a cheque or money order of pay by Visa/Mastercard for a cassette just pay $12.98 plus $3.00 for shipping charges and to order a CD send $19.98 plus $3.00 shipping charges. Add 7% GST and 7% PST (where applicable).
For telephone orders please call (204) 586-8057.

Mazepa film planned

(Ukrinform)—While attending a charitable evening-party at Lviv's Maria Zankovetska Drama Theater, People's Artist of Ukraine Ivan Havrylyuk disclosed his plan to shoot a multiserial feature film about Hetman Ivan Mazepa.

According to Havrylyuk, the "Last" open-type joint-stock society has volunteered to finance the film project.

Newsbriefs

Unilateral delimitation?

(OMRI)—A Ukrainian Foreign Ministry official has warned that Ukraine might take unilateral steps in delimiting the Ukrainian-Russian border, ITAR-TASS reported on Feb. 11. He claimed that Russia was dragging its feet over bilateral talks on border delimitation because of the uncertain fate of the Black Sea Fleet and the status of Sevastopol. He also noted that Ukraine has solved the problem of demarcating borders with its other close neighbors — Belarus and Moldova.

Shutdown at Rivne NPP

(UkrNews)—The No. 2 reactor at the Rivne nuclear power plant had to be shut down because of water leakage mishap in it vapor generator, Ukrinform reported Feb. 10. The incident was categorized as a zero level one on the international scale. The repair job is expected to be completed by February 19. No rise in radiation levels was reported.

Union charges rejected

(Ukrinform)—President Leonid Kuchma has no intention of acting upon the appeal by trade unions to remove Deputy Prime Minister Victor Pynzenyk of his post, says the chief of the Information Department of the Presidential Administration. Dmytro Markov voiced his concern over "the procurator's tone" of the letter and said the statement of union leaders that Victor Pynzenyk "was involved in the deliberate destruction of the Ukrainian economy" is not true and the authors are aware of this.

Tatars praise Chechens

(Ukrinform)—The Crimean Tartar Mejlis on Feb. 3 sent a message of congratulations to the Chechen President-elect Aslan Maskhadov. The message said the Chechen people's struggle for independence is made an example of bravery and national dignity.

Albright stresses Ukraine relations

(Ukrinform)—Jan. 29 Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko had a telephone conversation with US Secretary of State Madeline Albright, who stressed the importance of furthering US-Ukrainian bilateral relations via more active intergovernmental contacts. Udovenko thanked the US Secretary of State for her nation's unswerving support for Ukraine's independence and invited her to visit Ukraine.

New IMF rep in Ukraine

(INFOBANK)—A new Senior Permanent Representative of International Monetary Fund assumed his post in Ukraine, Jan. 29. Previously Patric Lenain was Deputy Chief of the Second European Directorate of the IMF.

Kuchma threatens to veto budget if tax reform not in place

(Ukrinform/InfoBank)—President Leonid Kuchma has reiterated that he will not sign the 1997 state budget if it is "unrealistic", or if it is drafted on the basis of the old taxation system.

Speaking at a meeting of the Ukrainian Council of Employers and Manufacturers in Kyiv, Feb. 4., he said parliamentary deliberations on the package of tax reform submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers have once again shown that certain politicians place their interests above that of the country.

The president stressed the need to take the prevailing situation in the country into consideration. He added that any delay in adopting the draft tax laws and the 1997 state budget will result in a further deepening of the economic crisis in the country.

Cabinet also called upon the Verkhovna Rada to approve the budget on the basis of the new tax policy.

In its Feb. 4 appeal, Cabinet said that only tax reform can provide an opportunity for reducing the tax burden on manufacturers — a move that will result in production growth and an improvement in the living standard of the Ukrainian people.

It also expressed concern that only two of the tax reform documents were adopted at first reading and expressed willingness to compromise with parliament for the benefit of the country.

Ukraine stands to receive more IMF loans

(JF Monitor/RFE/RL)—A senior-level International Monetary Fund delegation has recommended to the IMF Board of Directors that it disburse to Ukraine the ninth tranche, worth US$90 million, from a stand-by credit which was approved last year and which totals almost $1 billion.

The delegation further assured Kyiv that the IMF will open and begin disbursing an enlarged Extended Financing Facility (EFF) credit, projected at $2.5 billion, which is designed to pick up from Ukraine's one-year stand-by loan which ends this month.

That action only awaits approval by the Ukrainian parliament of both the 1997 budget and the government's tax bill, which is designed to close the budget deficit and encourage private enterprise.

IMF First Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma discussed the package during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 31. Fischer was quoted by Interfax-Ukraine as saying that tax reform is very important for Ukraine and that lower tax rates are an efficient mechanism to increase state revenues.

Leftist deputies headed by the parliament's Socialist chairman, Oleksandr Moroz, have resisted President Leonid Kuchma's efforts to push through the tax bill, but Moroz has signaled in recent days that he is prepared to clear the bill's passage in time to qualify Ukraine for the IMF credits

Kostenko issues environmental warning

(INFOBANK)—There are too many environmentally harmful projects in Ukraine, says the Minister of Environment Protection and Nuclear Safety.

Speaking to the Ministry Board, Feb. 4, Yuriy Kostenko said such dangerous projects include the RBMK-type reactors at Ukrainian nuclear power plants which are considered emergency-prone by international experts, as well as mines.

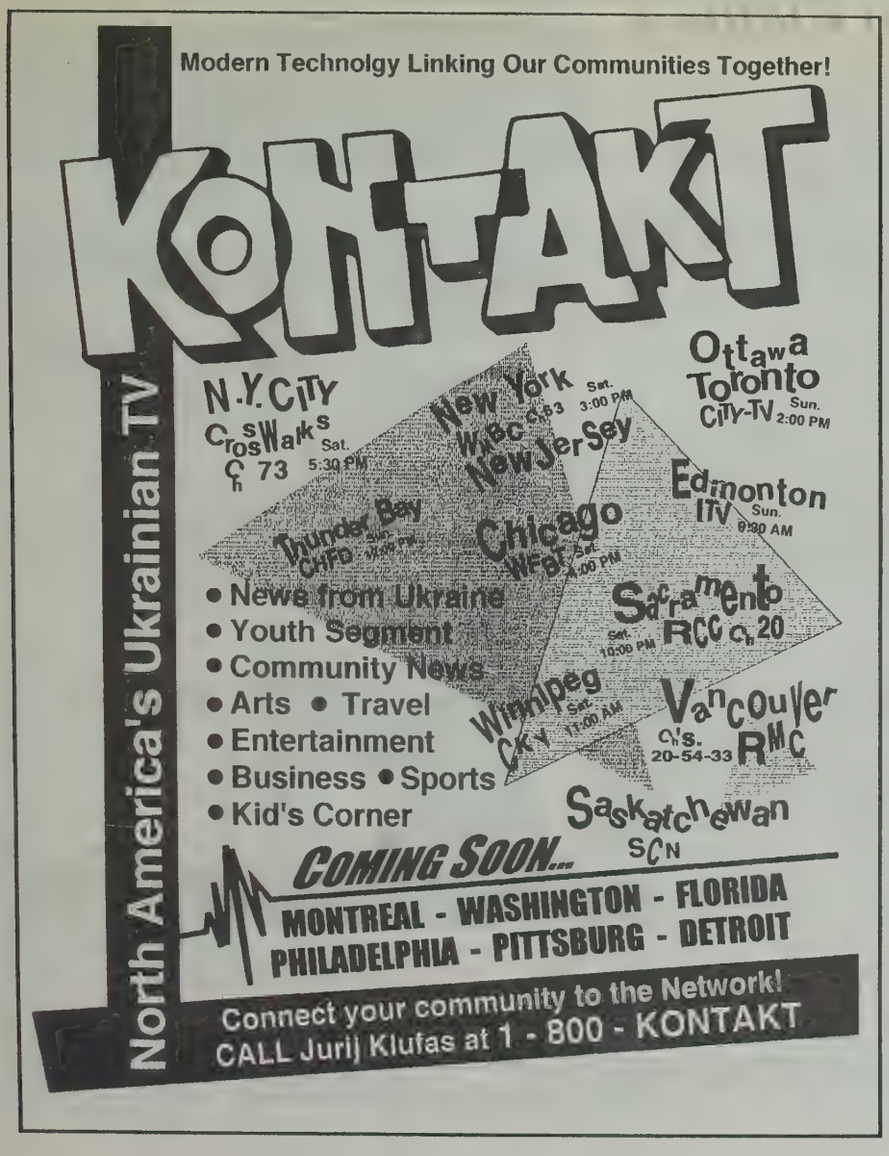
The minister singled out the Kryvyj Rih mining area as posing a constant ecological threat.

Kostenko cited several reasons for the low environmental standards in Ukraine. These included: high concentration of heavy mining industries (with 0.5% of land, Ukraine accounts for 5% of world mining); large areas of land under cultivation and outdated technology.

Resources consumption in the Ukrainian economy is three times higher than that in Western Europe, while energy consumption tops European standards by nine times.

Kostenko called for the creation of a system of incentives to force businesses to invest in modern ecologically safe and resource-saving technologies. All kinds of business activities that are harmful to nature must be licensed.

The minister also said say that in developed economies, two thirds of all conservation measures are financed by businesses and only one third by the state. However, in Ukraine 90% of these are still financed by the state, predominantly by local budgets.



Russia says Ukraine undercutting arms sales

(JF Monitor)—The directors of the Ukrainian and Russian state-owned arms export companies are to meet sometime this month.

Andriy Kukin, head of Ukraine's Ukrspetseksport, recently offered an olive branch in advance of the meeting, saying that he thought a partnership between the two companies would be beneficial for both countries.

Feb. 4, however, the number two man at Russia's Rosvooruzhenie, Mikhail Timkin, intimated the meeting might not be an agreeable one.

He charged that certain successor states to the USSR — and Ukraine in particular — have been guilty of "indecent behavior" in the international arms market by selling Russian arms at cheaper prices than Russia.

Timkin warned that Moscow could impose sanctions on these countries, such as cutting off their supply of military spare parts.

Ukraine's biggest foreign arms sale to date is its contract to supply 300 T-80UD tanks to Pakistan.

Foreign loans keep economy afloat

(OMRI)—Deputy Finance Minister Serhiy Matsakaria told the parliament on Feb. 11 that, as of the beginning of 1997, Ukraine had received US$3.5 billion in foreign loans, international media reported.

About $2.2 billion came from the IMF, which is Ukraine's largest donor, followed by the EBRD and the World Bank. Matsakaria said the loans had helped last year to stabilize Ukraine's new national currency, the hryvnia, and to reduce inflation.

Ukraine's foreign debt totals some $9 billion, of which $4 billion is owed to Russia and Turkmenistan.

Meanwhile, the German embassy in Kyiv has announced that all German public humanitarian organizations have stopped delivering aid to Ukraine in response to the Ukrainian law banning the duty-free import of humanitarian aid.

Russia pays too little for oil transit

(INFOBANK/UkrNews)—Experts for Parliament's Commission on foreign affairs and links with CIS say that Ukraine's new prices for transporting Russian oil across its territory are still too low compared with world prices. They say this is unfair since Russia charges Ukraine world prices for its oil. A report prepared by the Commission points out that Germany pays Poland US$1.73 for every 100 km for the transport of Russian oil across its territory, while Ukraine's Druzhba oil-pumping company charges Russian exporters only $ 0.72. They recommended that Ukraine's companies review their prices. Meanwhile, 50 Russian oil exporters signed contracts with Druzhba for the transit of oil in 1997 under the $0.72 price. Moscow had protested the new price which was 10 cents more than the earlier one.

UCSS (Edmonton) holds Appreciation Banquet

(UkrNews)—A sellout audience of 210 attended the Ukrainian Social Services (Edmonton) 1997 Appreciation Banquet at the Norwood Legion, Feb. 1.

Under the theme "Edmonton is a Great City", UCSS honoured its volunteers and other people who have assisted the service in providing assistance to immigrants, seniors and other people.

The awards were handed out by UCSS Edmonton President Bill Diachuk.

Greetings were delivered by Very Rev. William Hupalo from the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton and Very Rev. Stepan Semotiuk for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada's Edmonton and Western Dioceses, who both commended the agency for the service it provides newcomers to the city.

Edmonton City Councilor Brian Mason delivered the keynote address, noting that during the past year UCSS settled 20 refugee families from former Yugoslavia in Edmonton and Calgary.

During the past three years it has settled a total of 120 families from mostly Bosnia.

UCSS assisted them with accommodation, applications for Social Insurance Numbers, Health Care Cards, school registration and job search. The agency also provided them with counseling, advice and moral support.

As well it has assisted independent immigrants from Ukraine, who arrive in the area every month, in settlement.

Recently, a great number of prospective independent immigrants from Ukraine have turned to the agency to get information regarding settlement, education and job search programs available in Edmonton and area.

In addition to the services it provides immigrants, UCSS also assists non-English speaking with interpretation and translation services at Home Care agencies, hospitals and other governmental and community services.

To keep the activity ongoing and secure its financial needs UCSS continues its community fund raising and operates bingos (two a month).

1997 Recipients of the UCSS (Edmonton) Certificates of Appreciation with UCSS President Bill Diachuk. Left to Right: Dmytro Jakimez, Ivan Maksymiw, Paul Politylo, Edmonton City Councillor Brian Mason, Steve Sumka Sr., George Scharabun, Stepan Andrusiak, Diachuk. (Missing: Ivan Horudko, Mike Szram and Bill Zeniuk.)

Former SUSK president passes away

(SUSKGEN)—A former president of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) passed away suddenly in Toronto, Jan. 30, at the age of 57.

George Borys was active in the Ukrainian community, as well as in the business community of Toronto.

Over the years, he worked for Proctor and Gamble, was vice president at Canada Packers, and most recently was the owner of two Living Lighting stores in the Toronto area.

He was a 'vykhovnyk' in Plast, active in the University of Toronto Ukrainian Students Club and in SUSK as well.

Borys is survived by his loving wife Nadia, three sons: Roman, Adrian and Marko, his mother Olena, his sister Oksana and many relatives and friends.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN SOCIAL SERVICES
11666 - 95 St. Edmonton, AB T5G 1L8
Ph.: 471-4477 Fax: 477-0617

UCSS - a non-profit, charitable organization responding to the needs and interest of the Ukrainian Community

ССУК - це добродійна, громадська установа яка допомагає тим що потребують допомоги серед української громади

UCSS is providing various services:
- home visits, counselling and advice,
- information, referral and translation services,
- aid in sponsorship of immigrants and refugees,
- parcels and money delivered to Ukraine.

ССУК щиро дякує всім жертводавцям за щедрість та підтримку нашої діяльності

It is due to the Ukrainian Community, that we are able to extend our services to all those in need

Ukrainians raise Funds for BC Internment Camp Plaques

(UCCLA)—Over 50 members of Vancouver's Ukrainian community, aided by phone-in pledges from across the province, have raised over $6,000 to install two trilingual commemorative plaques, at Nanaimo and Vernon, BC commemorating the imprisonment of Ukrainians there during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920.

During the First World War thousands of Ukrainian s and other eastern Europeans were interned as "enemy aliens" in 24 concentration camps across Canada, six in British Columbia, even though the British government, early in 1915, informed Ottawa that they were "friendly aliens" who should be given "preferential treatment."

Categorized as "second class" inmates, these Ukrainians were sent to camps in Canada's hinterlands and forced to do heavy labor under often difficult conditions. Some of the internees' confiscated wealth remains in the federal treasury to this day.

Since 1987 the community has requested Ottawa to acknowledge that these internment operations were unjust, to place historical markers at each of camp sites and provide for the restitution of the internees' money, those funds to be used exclusively for educational purposes.

Faced with Ottawa's inaction, the community, since 1994, has begun its own national campaign to place plaques and statues at selected internment camp sites. Markers have been installed at Fort Henry, near Kingston, Ontario, in Kapuskasing, Jasper National Park and at Castle Mountain & Cave & Basin in Banff National Park.

Organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional & Business Club of Vancouver, supported by the generosity of Roy Lisgar (Century Plaza Hotel) and Julia Stashuk (Ukrainian Studies Foundation of British Columbia), a fund-raising event kicked off a campaign which aims to raise at least $20,000 for commemorative projects in province, with a small amount earmarked for the installation of a plaque in Spirit Lake (near Amos) Quebec, site of the largest camp where Ukrainian families were imprisoned.

Commenting on the fundraising success, UCPBA president, Rob Clark, said:

"Our community strongly supports this national effort to recall an an unhappy episode in Canadian history. We are determined to do so even if Ottawa refuses to do the right thing and return the internees' confiscated monies. We believe that our efforts will help ensure that no other Canadian ethnic, religious or racial minority ever suffers as Ukrainians once did in this country."

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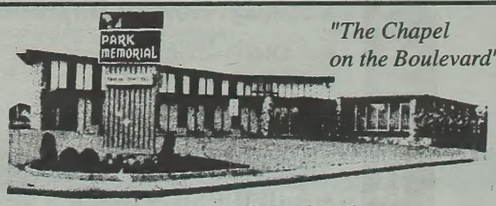

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Bishop Budka Society returns to Brazil

The Bishop Budka Charitable Society is visiting Ukrainian-settled areas in Brazil, Feb. 8-23, to check on the progress of their assistance projects.

Participating in the visit are the society's president, Bill Diachuk, and executive member Orysia Boychuk.

The 10 Associations that are receiving funding for their plantation projects will be visited and the balance of funds will be presented. The first half of the funds were sent to the Tropical Forests Institute in May, 1996. The first half of the funds consisted of C$21,271 from the Bishop Budka Society and $21,271 from the Wild Rose Foundation that is directed for International aid on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

This trip is being made as required to evaluate the projects and prepare a complete report, to the two Agencies that the society has received funds from.

This small assistance for the poor farmers has been very beneficial. The objectives were to organize the families into an Association and this was accomplished by the members of the Tropical Forests Institute, coordinated by their president, Nestor Kutenski. Members of each Association participate in the development of the plant nursery and learn how to transplant on their own land. Professional people from both the State and Municipal Departments provide instruction on how to look after the trees and plants in order to harvest them within four to five years.

In addition to the Brazil Projects, the Bishop Budka Charitable Society will continue, in co-operation with the Knights of Columbus, the $10,000 a year donation to Ivano-Frankivsk Seminary. Since the Canadian International Development Agency is now accepting proposals for Eastern Europe, the society will be undertaking to locate a Partner Organization in Ukraine to explore the possibility of CIDA projects in Eastern Europe.

Sports Briefs

Olympians shine again

Two of Ukraine's Olympic medalists won their events at the Gunma international indoor track and field meet in Tokyo, Feb. 8. Gold medalist Inessa Kravets won the women's triple jump at 45 feet, 11 1/4 inches, while Aleksandr Bahach, the shot-put bronze medalist at Atlanta, threw 67-9 to beat silver medalist John Godina.

Osovich misses by .01 second

Ukraine's Serhiy Osovich had to settle for second place in the men's 200 metre race at the Adidas world class meet in Moscow, Feb. 8. He was behind winner Sunday Bada of Nigeria by only one-tenth of a second.

Pintusevich second

Ukraine's Zhanna Pintusevich was second in the women's 60 metre race with a time of 7.21 seconds at the IAAF Indoor Grand in Madrid, Feb 5. Russia's Irina Privalova set the best time for the event, so far this year, with a storming victory in 7.04 seconds. Melanie Paschke of Germany was third with 7.30.

Hryhoreva second

Ukraine's Natalia Hryhoreva came in second to Brigita Bukovec of Slovenia in the women's 60-metre hurdles at the Samsung Cup indoor track and field meet in Budapest, Feb. 1. Bukovec, the Olympic 100-metre hurdles silver medalist, was clocked in 7.94 minutes.

Silver in Seoul

Ukraine's Nina Stenkova, Natalia Tereshchenko and Tatkana Rud had to settle for a sivler in the women's biathlon relay at the Winter University Games in Seoul, Jan. 28. Russia's Elena Maslova Irina Vladimirskaia and Inna Kassimova beat them by 1 minute, 16.7 seconds.

Zimbabwe defeats Ukraine

Zimbabwe took a winning 3-0 lead over Ukraine in their Davis Cup Euro/African zone group one first round tie after winning the doubles on Feb. 8. Brothers Byron and Wayne Black beat Andriy Rybalko and Andriy Medvedev 7-6 (7-5) 4-6 6-1 6-4. In the singles matches, Wayne shocked Medvedev 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, while Byron defeated Rybalko 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (7-2), 6-3.

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Silantiev wins butterfly series

Sports/Спорт

Ukraine's Denis Silantiev won the men's butterfly event during the eight-venue World Cup short-course swimming series, which finished Feb. 10.

Denis Silantiev had a total of 71 points, followed by Michael Klim of Australia with 67 and Denis Pankratov of Russia) with 50.

Silantiev managed to keep the top spot despite coming in second to Pankratov in both the 100-metre and the 200-metre butterfly at the final meeting of the series in Imperia, Italy, Feb. 5.

Pankratov clocked 51.93 seconds in the 100 metres, beating Canadian Marcel Gery's world mark of 52.07, set in Leicester, England, on Feb. 23, 1990.

Silantiev finished second in 52.19, with Russian Konstantin Ushkov third in 52.49.

Both Pankratov and Silantiev were inside the 52.26 European mark Ushkov set in Gelsenkirchen a week earlier.

In the 200-metre, Pankrativ finished in 1:54.37 minutes, while Silantiev did it in 1:56.15. Russian Alexei Kolesnikov was third with 1:58.23.

Zubrilova paces Ukraine in biathlon

(UkrNews)—Olena Zubrilova paced the Ukrainian team in the biathlon world championships held in Osrblie, Slovakia, Feb. 1-8, winning three silver medals and sharing in a team bronze.

She took second place in the women's 10 kilometre and 15 kilometre pursuits behind Magdalena Forsberg of Sweden, and was just behind Olga Romasko of Russia in the 7.5 kilometre sprint.

In the women's 7.5 kilometre team event, Ukraine's entry of Zubrilova, Olena Petrova, Valentina Tserbe and Tatiana Vodopyanova, finished third behind Norway and Russia. The same Ukrainian team finished fifth in the 7.5 kilometre relay.

Tserbe took eighth place in the 15 kilometre pursuit, as did Nina Lemish in the 7.5 kilometre sprint. Petrova finished 10th in both events.

Baiul escapes criminal charge

A Connecticut judge permitted Olympic skating champion Oksana Baiul to enroll in an alcohol education program, effectively granting her request to avoid prosecution on drunken driving charges, Feb. 5, reported Reuters.

Baiul, 19, was also fined the maximum US$90 plus costs on a separate charge of driving too fast for conditions. She pleaded no contest to the second charge and did not enter a plea on the first charge.

Under Connecticut law, the case will be expunged from her record when she completes the alcohol education program.

Daniel Blume, her lawyer, told the court she would perform 25 hours of public service as part of the program, but he said the details had yet to be worked out.

"She's a fine person. She's going to benefit from this program," Blume said.

Baiul, who lives in Simsbury, Connecticut, was originally charged with driving while intoxicated and reckless driving after she ran her Mercedes off a road and crashed on Jan. 12.

Bubka plans to compete at Sydney

Serhiy Bubka has apparently recovered from the long-standing Achilles tendon injury which ruined his Olympics last year and plans to compete at the 2000 Sydney Games, reports Reuters.

The injury prevented Bubka from competing in last month's at ''Pole Stars'' event in Donetsk, which he established eight years ago.

The five-time world champion pole vaulter, who travels to Finland once a month for medical checks, dismissed talk of retirement and says he still hopes to raise his world record to 6.20 metres.

"I feel quite good," he said. "I am preparing for the world summer championships in Athens. The old injury doesn't bother me any more.

"I want to jump till 2000. I don't like making forecasts. I am a man of action not of words. But I really want to jump 6.20 metres."

Bubka says he will know when it is time to retire.

"There is a limit to everything," he said. "After that I will be an ordinary sportsman — I will play tennis, soccer and basketball just for fun."

Tchmil sixth

Ukraine's Andriy Tchmil came in sixth during the fourth stage stage of the Etoile de Besseges cycle race over 139 kilometres around Laudin, France, Feb. 8. First was Emmanuel Magnien of France with a time of three hours 12 minutes, 57 seconds.

З думою про Сідней

Іван Гром'як

У Києві відбулося спільне засідання УП сесії генеральної асамблеї Національного олімпійського комітету і колегії Держкомспорту України, на якому розглянуто підсумки виступу українських спортсменів у XXVI літніх Олімпійських іграх 1996 року в Атланті та завдання щодо підготовки до наступних Олімпійських ігор.

У вступному слові члена МОК, президента НОК України, голови Державного комітету України з фізичної культури і спорту Валерія Борзова зазначалося, зокрема, що роботі, яка була здійснена за минулий олімпійський цикл, передував комплекс організаційних заходів, спрямованих на становлення в умовах незалежної держави системи олімпійського руху та фізкультури і спорту. Було утворено НОК, сформовано 104 національних федерації з видів спорту, більшість з яких має визнання на міжнародному рівні. Близько 800 кращих спортсменів і 300 тренерів увійшли до складу штатних збірних команд країни. Засновано систему заохочень за високі результати виступів. Спорт в Україні отримав відповідну законодавчу та нормативну базу. Визначено 22 пріоритетні види спорту, створено науково–дослідний інститут галузі та державний центр спортивної медицини. НОК України та Штаб олімпійської підготовки тодішнього Мінмолодьспорту здійснювали контроль за реалізацією передолімпійських плянів. Велику допомогу у розв'язанні актуальних проблем надав створений на урядовому рівні Оргкомітет, очолюваний міністром Кабінету міністрів України Валерієм Пустовойтенком.

Ці та інші справи позитивно вплинули на кінцевий результат. Перший виступ спортсменів України на літніх Олімпійських іграх загалом визнано успішним — і керівництвом держави і спортивною громадськістю.

З доповіддю, в якій було дано грунтовний аналіз участі посланців на іграх в Атланті, виступив Шеф Місії НОК України Микола Костенко. Він зауважив, що, наприклад, для збірних команд з велоспорту, плавання, академічного веслування були створені умови для підготовки в умовах середньогір'я та високогір'я. Працівники НДІ та представники 12 видів спорту за рік до Олімпіади ознайомились з кліматом Атланти, беручи участь у змаганнях «Передолімпійського тижня–95». З урахуванням цього досвіду було проведено передзмагальний етап підготовки безпосередньо в зоні ігор — від 10 до 36 днів. І в усіх цих турботах, українські спортсмени та фахівці відчували постійну увагу і підтримку, у тому числі й фінансову, з боку представників української діяспори, що мешкає в Америці і Канаді, її спортивних організацій.

Як відомо, кращих результатів серед посланців України досягли представники спортивної гімнастики, легкої атлетики, вітрильного спорту, греко–римської боротьби, важкої атлетики, боксу і художньої гімнастики. Задовільно виступили борці вільного стилю, лучники та баскетболістки. Водночас нижче можливостей змагалися веслувальники–академісти, трековики, дзюдоїсти, плавці, стрибуни у воду та фехтувальники і незадовільно — бадмінтоністи, веслувальники на байдарках і каное, велосипедисти–шосейники, ватерполісти, волейбоїсти, стрільці і п'ятиборці.

Підготовка та участь у минулих іграх висвітлили ряд серйозних проблем, що мають місце у сфері спорту, зокрема, у підборі, розстановці та підвищенні кваліфікації тренерського складу, збереженні і вихованні резерву, тощо. І надалі, як зазначалося на засіданні, необхідно визначати пріоритетні види спорту, концентрувати матеріяльно–фінансові ресурси на першочергове їх фінансування, з тим щоб зберегти і примножити у новому олімпійському циклі той потенціял, яким нині володіє держава України.

Epic reduces 1997 drilling plan to 75 wells

Business

(UkrNews)—Calgary-based Epic Energy has reduced its projected 1997 drilling program in the Crimean peninsula from 100 to 75 wells, says the company's President and CEO.

Ron Cormick told Ukrainian News. Feb. 11, that the reasons for the reduction were shipping and bureaucratic delays as well as bad weather.

Epic, through its wholly-owned U.S. Subsidiary H.H.O. Ltd. is a 60 percent owner of the KrymTexas-Nafta joint venture with the Ukrainian state-owned Krymgeologia, which has the drilling rights for the Crimean peninsula.

Cormick said that the overall estimates for its wells both in the Aktash field on the Kerch Peninsula and the Crimean Plains still remain at 125 barrels per day. Projected over a yearly period such estimates would amount to 476,000 metric tons. Ukraine's latest projections for its 1997 oil production only amount to 3.9 million tons.

However, the company has not drilled any new well so far this year because it is still waiting for the government to sign a declaration confirming tax exemptions that have been previously agreed to, he said.

Epic is planning to ship three more rigs into Crimea from the United States in March.

Cormick said the company's expected investment in 1997 is more than the US$10 million initially announced and could be closer to $20 million "if Ukraine cooperates — and that's a big if."

Foreign investment doubled in 1996

(INFOBANK)—Total foreign investment in Ukraine doubled in 1996, reaching US$1.5 billion, says President Leonid Kuchma.

At the same time, the trade balance deficit went down to 1.9% of GDP, he said while speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland Jan. 2.

Kuchma emphasized that almost 60% of the country's total industrial production is manufactured by companies which have recently changed their form of ownership. He also promised that the proposed tax reform will reduce taxes on businesses by 25%.

Speaking on Ukraine's integration into the European Union, Kuchma said that Ukraine is not yet ready to join this structure. He said Ukraine's integration will be gradual since the country first needs to catch up with the level of economic development of EU member states.

Fountain Oil announces changes

(UkrNews)—Oslo/Houston-based-Fountain Oil Inc. announced Feb. 5 that its Board of Directors had approved a management reorganization proposed by senior management.

Among some of the changes, Orest Senkiw has been elected Vice President for Eastern and Central Ukraine in charge of current development at the Lelyaky field in Chernihiv Oblast. Senkiw is chief engineer with Calgary-based Uk-Ran Oil.

No position was announced for Ed Southern, president of Uk-Ran Oil. Southern, however, says he will remain as Uk-Ran chairman and deputy chairman of Kashtan Petroleum, the joint venture which was formed between Uk-Ran and UkrNafta before Fountain bought a 90 percent stake in Uk-Ran Oil.

Besides the Lelyaky field, Fountain also has rights to develop the Stynavsky field in the Boryslav region of Lviv Oblast.

Investment forum held in N.Y.

(Ukrinform)—A Ukrainian-North American investment forum was held in New York, Jan. 27-29.

Participants discussed concrete projects and opportunities for American and Canadian investments in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian delegation to the forum, which was led by the chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for Securities and the Stock Market, Oleh Mozgovoy, consisted of representatives of the Ukrainian National Agency for Reconstruction and Development, National Bank of Ukraine, and the State Property Fund.

Addressing the forum were US representative in charge of trade and energy cooperation with CIS countries, Yan Kalitski, Presidential advisor on assistance to newly independent nations, Richard Morningstar, Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States Yuriy Shcherbak and representatives of state-owned firms and institutions.

Representatives of over 100 North American firms attended.

Oil and gas targets reduced

(INFOBANK)—Altogether, 18.4 billion cubic metres of gas and 4.1 million tons of oil and gas condensate were extracted in Ukraine during 1996, while the targets were 18.2 billion cu.m and 4.21 million tons, respectively.

Targets for 1997 provide for the extraction of 17.23 billion cu.m of gas and 3.9 million tons of oil and condensate, according to figures released during the Feb.5 session of the State Committee on Oil/Gas and Oil-Refining Industry Board.

Members of the Board attributed the reduced output targets to poor funding by the state and inadequate conditions for self-funding by companies.

Originally, the low development budgets were to have been supplemented by reducing lease payments for oil and gas extraction, but these proposals by the State Committee were ignored during the approval of the budget for 1996.

Consequently, extracting companies owe the state UAH 400 million (C$285 million).

Customer debts make it even worse for companies. They stand at UAH 3.9 billion.

Investments sought in Alabama

(Ukrinform)—Valeriy Kuchynsky, an advisor with the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington's adviser spoke about Ukraine's ongoing political and economic reformation and the government's most recent steps to create a more favorable environment for foreign investment during a conference in Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 29.

The conference, sponsored by the Association of International Trade, dealt with investment in Ukraine, Romania and Hungary, and was attended by US Trade Dept. officers and business executives from several southern states.

The Ukrainian official outlined new opportunities for establishing direct enterprise-to-enterprise contacts between Ukraine and Alabama.

Kuchynsky also met with Birmingham Mayor Richard Ackhorde to deliberate about such and similar matters of US-Ukrainian cooperation.

Exploration targets met

(INFOBANK)—A Feb. 4 statement by Ukraine's State Committee on geology and mineral resources utilization says Ukrainian exploration companies have fully fulfilled government targets for opening new fields.

Targets for new oil/condensate fields were fulfilled 103%, for natural gas — 101%, for coal — 178.5%, for granite — 127.5% and for titanium — 110.3%.

Last year, new hydrocarbon fields were opened at Sukhivskyi, Pirkivskyi, and Hrynyavskyi field.

Explorers are optimistic about the potential of the Kapitanivskyi chrome-iron field, the Verbivskyi molibden ore field, the Fedorivskyi manganese and apatite field, the Bilyayivskyi lead field and the Ukrainian Shield's several gold fields. The State Committee on geology began regional surveying for possible places to be used in future for the dumping of nuclear waste.

According to the Committee's statistics, altogether 591 licences were issued in 1996. Out of these, 266 were for exploration and 325 for extraction. Three exploration licences and two extraction licences were given to joint ventures with foreign capital last year.

Russian-Ukrainian consortium to convert ICBMs into launch vehicles

A group of leading Russian and Ukrainian enterprises on Jan. 31 announced their agreement to convert SS-18 Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) into launch vehicles for the deployment of commercial satellite systems.

SS-18 missiles must be eliminated in accordance with the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which commits Russia and the United States to reduce their stockpiles of nuclear weapons. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, however, permits converting ICBMs for use as commercial launchers.

Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin, and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma have approved the conversion and use of SS-18 missiles for commercial launch.

A joint venture, the International Corporation for Space Transport Systems has been formed to convert and deploy a multi-purpose launch vehicle, "Dnepr," based on the SS-18 missile

Over 100 missiles are available to be used for space launches. The Baikonur launch site in Kazakhstan has all of the necessary facilities and infrastructure. Dnepr launches may begin as soon as

Private farms now account for 50% of production

(Ukrinform)—A total of 25.5 million hectares of land or 42% of the country's land resources have been freely transferred to agricultural producers since land reform was introduced five years ago, says the chairman of the State Committee for Land Resources.

Speaking at a briefing to mark the fifth anniversary of the Supreme Council law on private ownership of land, Jan. 30, Leonid Novakovskiy added that 5.6 million hectares of agricultural land have been handed over to private farmers.

He said private farms now account for about 50% of all agriculture products in Ukraine, compared to about 27% before introduction of land reform.

Electronic payments to be tested in Odesa

(InfoBank)—A pilot project introducing a national system of electronic payments by plastic cards will be tested in Odesa, says Valentin Yanchukov, Deputy Chairman of the Odesa regional department of the National Bank of Ukraine. The project will be implemented by the UkrKart closed joint stock company founded in September 1995 by the NBU, the 20 biggest commercial banks in Ukraine and Giesecke & Devrient of Germany. It provides for the manufacture of about 20,000 plastic cards with the Odesa logo and 200 terminals to be installed in banks, savings banks and some other sites. Full introduction of this system in Ukraine is planned for 2001.

Business Briefs

Refinery output drops

(INFOBANK)—In 1996, Ukrainian refineries processed 12.08 million tons of oil, which is 3.6 million less than in 1995. Production dropped at the all six domestic refineries, reaching 36% at the Kherson refinery, 26% at Odesa, 24% at Kremenchuk, 17% at Drohobych, 16% at Nadvirna refinery and 7% at Lysychansk. Production of gasoline dropped by 9% in 1996, from 2.79 million 2.55 million tons.

US firm eyes Ternopil truck plant

(INFOBANK)—The US Long Co. is interested in investing in the production of mini-fork-lift trucks at a harvesters' plant located in Ternopil, says the plant's design bureau deputy head. Yaroslav Kazybroda said the contract with Americans can be signed by the end of 1997, following the assembly of the first serial production batch at the Ternopil plant. The US company intends to export all of the fork-lift trucks made with American money. American experts believe that up to 1,000 fork-lift trucks could be assembled at the Ternopil plant every year.

Mitsubishi may invest in refinery

(Infobank)—Ukraine's National Agency for Reconstruction and Development has prepared two large-scale investment projects which may find a prospective partner in Japan's Mitsubishi Corp. One involves the modernization of a tire factory in Bila Tserkva, the other the modernization of the Kremenchuk oil refinery. The total cost of both projects is estimated at US$200 million. According to Roman Shpek, head of the Agency, 62 projects have been submited for Japanese investment.

Space shipments to Russia

(Ukrinform)—The Kharkiv-based "Kommunar" production association will ship a dozen sets of electronics meant for Proton spacecraft's guidance systems to its Moscow-based partner, Khrunichev firm, over 1997. According to Kommunar's managers, more Russian orders involving guidance systems for Soyuz spacecraft are expected this year.

Construction privatization in Kharkiv

(Ukrinform)—The first auction for the sale of uncompleted construction projects has taken place in Kharkiv. The auction was organized by the regional department of the Ukrainian State Property Fund in association with the International Financial Corporation. A total of 61 uncompleted construction projects have been approved for privatization in the Kharkiv region.

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Minister denies crime rate claims

(Ukrinform)—Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Kravchenko is denying suggestions that Ukraine has the highest crime rate among the former Soviet republics.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives of foreign diplomatic missions in Ukraine, he said that the crime rate is 1,203 per 100,000 persons in Ukraine, adding that this figure is substantially lower than the figures in many countries, including developed ones.

Kravchenko added that the number of serious crimes such as robbery, rape, and infliction of bodily harm have been reduced considerably and that street crime has been reduced in all regions, except for Transcarpathia and Chernihiv Oblasts. He also noted that measures taken in 1996 resulted in the institution of criminal proceedings against 9,000 senior officials.

Responding to a question on the number of people sentenced to death in 1996, Kravchenko gave the figure of 140, adding that a moratorium on the death sentence has been introduced.

No future for CIS, Horbulin says

(INFOBANK)—Bilateral cooperation between the former republics of the Soviet Union would be preferable to the continuation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, says Ukraine's Security Council Head.

"It's my opinion that the Commonwealth of Independent States was created in a rush that accompanied the collapse of the Soviet Union. We were not ready for a such form of cooperation," Volodymyr Horbulin told the Lviv newspaper Post-Postup.

"Even if we take a closer look, we cannot find any traces of effective cooperation within the CIS, he added.

"I can refer you to numerous interviews given by Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbajev, or to the opinion of Ukraine's President Kuchma, or to the latest statements by the Belarus President Olexandr Lukashenka, to realize that there is no future for CIS," continued Horbulin.

An example of the bilateral cooperation which would work is the technical and military cooperation between Russia and Ukraine, he said.

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Rada to study new bill on political parties

(INFOBANK)—A new bill before parliament will require that political parties have a minimum of 25,000 members in order to be registered.

The bill denies membership in political parties to military, police, security service, and customs officers, as well as to judges, state prosecutors and police investigators. There will be no collective membership.

Each political party that takes three percent or more of the national vote will qualify for state funding. The total amount of funding for political parties is to be specified in the state budget, but it must not be less than 0.01% of the total budget.

The bill prohibits the financing of political parties by state and local administration agencies, state-owned and municipal companies, or by foreign sources.

Funds received from such sources are to be transferred to the state budget within two weeks.

Foreigners to pay for medical services

(INFOBANK)—Cabinet has decided that all foreign citizens temporarily staying in Ukraine will pay for medical services. Foreigners permanently residing in Ukraine will receive medical treatment as Ukrainians.

In this connection, all foreign citizens when obtaining an entrance visa to Ukraine, or when crossing the Ukrainian border are required to have an insurance policy guaranteeing payment for medical aid if needed. Under this policy, foreigners have the right to receive medical services in specifically appointed medical institutions.

The list of these institutions will be determined by the State joint stock insurance company on providing emergency medical aid to foreigners.

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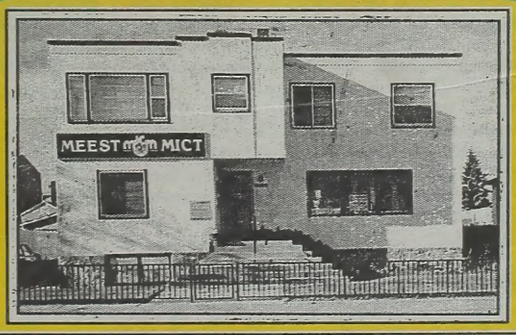

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